

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE PARISH OF
HILPERTON HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, HILPERTON,
on Tuesday, 7th May, 2013, at 7.30 p.m.**

CHAIRMAN: Mr. E. Clark, Chairman of the Parish Council, presided.

PRESENT: Fifteen members of the public, including parish councillors.

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. V. Bielecki, Mrs. S. Sawyer and Mrs. M. Timms.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman introduced himself to the assembled company.

3. MINUTES OF THE 2011 PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on the 1st May, 2012, were agreed and signed. (Proposed by Mr. E. Clark, seconded by Mr. K. Jackson, all in favour).

4. MATTERS ARISING

Welcome to Hilperton Signs and Planters: The Chairman said that three new planters had been put in place last year: one adjacent to the bridge at Leap Gate; one by the brook at Ashton Road; and one along the A361 Devizes Road. ‘Welcome to Hilperton’ signs had been positioned behind them with one additional welcome sign put up at the entrance to the village from Staverton.

New Notice Board at Horse Road: The Chairman reported that a new notice board was put up towards the end of 2012, and could be found at St. Mary’s Church. This meant that the village now had six notice boards in total.

5. FINANCIAL BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL

In the absence of the Clark, the Chairman reported that the annual precept for the year ended 31st March, 2013, had been set at £12.49, an increase of 50p. This brought in a precept of £24,238.

Items of expenditure throughout the year, in addition to administrative costs, insurances, audit costs and annual subscriptions to a number of organisations, grants given etc., included purchasing and siting of the new planters and welcome signs, bedding plants and maintenance during the year, the new play equipment at the Village Hall, re-pointing work at the War Memorial wall, purchase and erection of a new notice board in Horse Road and a contribution towards dropped kerbs in Hill Street and Horse Road.

The accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2012, were adopted by the Parish Council in June, 2012, the audit being completed in October. The accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2013, were being prepared in readiness for their adoption by the Parish Council. The income for the last financial year amounted to £26,355 and the expenditure was £43,994. There were no questions.

6. PARISH BUSINESS

Annual Meeting, May, 2012

At the Parish Council’s annual meeting, Mr. E. Clark was re-elected Chairman and Mr. R. House was re-elected Vice-Chairman.

Hilperton Primary School and The Mead Primary School

No report had been received from either school.

Grants given throughout the Year

The Chairman explained that Section 137 of the Local Government Act stated that local authorities could make grants to voluntary bodies where no specific grant-making power existed in other legislation and where, in the council's opinion, the grant would benefit any part of its area and its inhabitants. Section 19 grants applied generally to village halls and community centres.

During the year the following grants had been made:-

£180 given in May, 2012, to the 'One Love Community Group' to help fund a Diamond Jubilee 'party on the green' on Towpath Road.

£2,238 given in May, 2012, to the Village Hall Committee (Section 19 grant) to help with their annual grounds maintenance.

£100 given in June, 2012, to the HELP Counselling Services. Fifteen clients from Hilperton had been given help over the previous year.

£300 given in June, 2012, to the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust. Nine vulnerable, local people had been helped by them over the previous year.

£200 given in July, 2012, to the Giffords and Greenhill Gardens Tenants' Association and Social Club to assist in the setting up of a club for local residents.

£300 given in June, 2012, to Youth Action Wiltshire. Four young carers in Hilperton had been assisted in the last year and five other 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training, had participated in their six-month support programme.

£1,000 given in September, 2012, to the Wiltshire West District Scout Association to assist in their purchase of a field adjacent to Biss Wood.

£300 given in November, 2012, to Victim Support.

£400 given in November, 2012, to Carers Support, Wiltshire.

£300 given in November, 2012, to the Trowbridge Sea Cadets.

The Chairman said that the discretionary Section 137 was continuing to work well in giving assistance to elderly residents in the parish attending a Sunday Club at the Longfield Community Centre in Trowbridge each week.

Allotments

The Chairman said that any issues arising were discussed at parish council meetings. Over the past year a few plot holders had left and others had taken over their plots, and there was always a waiting list. A new Allotment Committee was formed at their AGM in September, 2012. With regard to the option to purchase more land to extend the allotment area, future Parish Council budgets would reflect the cost needed to take up the option, which would be in the region of £12,000.

Parish Newsletter

The Chairman thanked Scott Uncles from the Parish Council for producing a newsletter last year, which had been distributed to every house in the parish during the summer.

Village Hall – New Diamond Jubilee Play Equipment

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations took place on the 2nd June, 2012, and the Chairman said that the afternoon had been a great success, with over 1,000 people in attendance. All the new play equipment had been ready on the day, and a Diamond Jubilee Oak sapling had been planted in September, 2012, near the play area.

Village Maintenance/Highways

Parish Steward: The Chairman said that this scheme had been in place for a number of years and worked well, with the Parish Steward visiting the village each month. Other highway matters, including potholes, blocked drains and ditches, and other road problems, were reported regularly to CLARENCE or to the local Wiltshire Council highways team.

Dropped Kerbs were put in place last May in Hill Street and Horse Road, to make it easier for people using wheelchairs and for parents with prams/buggies.

Community Speed Watch: The Chairman said that this scheme was presently in abeyance whilst a new co-ordinator was found.

Requests for waiting and parking restrictions at various places in the parish had been sent to Wiltshire Council for consideration at their review this year. These included the extension of the double yellow lines in Hill Street (from Dymott Square); the introduction of double yellow lines in the vicinity of the speed table at Ashton Road/Devizes Road; and the introduction of double yellow lines on both sides of the road at Hackett Place, leading to The Mead Primary school (this last as a result of a request from local residents).

Best Kept Village Competition

The Chairman said that in July, 2012, the Parish Council had been informed that Hilperton had come equal first in the Large Village category of the West Wiltshire round of the competition. In September Hilperton won the Large Village category of the Wiltshire round of the competition – for the first time ever. A special award and presentation ceremony had taken place on Sunday, 30th September, 2012. Before this, a special sign was erected on the Village Hall playing field.

Trowbridge Community Campus

The Trowbridge Shadow Community Operations Board (SCOB) had been set up last year to develop a proposal for a community campus for the Trowbridge area. The Chairman said that it seemed likely that, after rounds of public consultation, the campus would be sited at County Hall.

Trowbridge Rugby Club

This would be known as ‘Hilperton Ridge – the Home of Trowbridge Rugby Club’. Work started towards the latter part of 2012 and was expected to be completed in September, 2013.

Wiltshire Council Waste and Recycling Collections

The Chairman said that changes in recycling collections had resulted in the removal of school mini recycling sites at Hilperton C of E Primary School and The Mead Primary school last year. Changes had also been made to the recycling site at Hackett Place.

War Memorial

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council intended to have the War Memorial cleaned next year in time for the commemoration of the outbreak of World War 1. A defective stone on the Blind House would be replaced by the masonry company at no cost to the Parish Council.

BT Payphone – Greenhill Gardens

After receiving an invoice from BT last November for the ‘sponsor a kiosk’ initiative, in the amount of £360, the Clerk had found out from BT that the payphone had had very little usage

over the past couple of years, and in fact last year there had been no revenue generated. It had therefore been agreed that the contract with BT should be terminated.

Walkers using the Hilperton Gap

The Chairman referred to problems experienced by the owner in recent months and the efforts by the Parish Council to draw peoples’ attention to their responsibilities, both as walkers and/ or dog owners, when using private land.

Wiltshire Councillor’s Report

Mr. Clark said that the past year had been a quiet one, with no increase in the precept. He had been re-elected as a councillor for the Hilperton division on the 2nd May, 2013, at the local elections.

Police Report

Police Constable Mark Hough was not in attendance and had not sent a report.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT HAVING A LEGAL CONSEQUENCE ON THE COUNCIL

A suggestion was made that a ‘community orchard’ might be planted, possibly in the field opposite Pike Close or on part of the Village Hall playing field.

8. CONCLUSION

As usual, the Chairman said that members of the public were always welcome to attend parish council meetings and to visit the website. Over the past year there had been eleven parish council meetings and five planning committee meetings.

The Parish Council continued to give small donations to needy, elderly people at Christmas from the Sir William Roger Brown’s (Coal) charity.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked:-

- * Lesley House for the upkeep of the War Memorial and planting.
- * Kendrick Jackson for continuing to represent the Parish Council on the Trowbridge Community Area Parish Councils’ Liaison Group.
- * Kate Hayes for representing the Parish Council on the local Police Tasking Group.
- * John Willis, who resigned from the Parish Council in January this year, after many years’ service.
- * Sandra Carleton, who decided not to put her name forward for re-election at the recent local council elections, for her contribution as a co-opted parish councillor over the past couple of years.
- * All parish councillors and the Clerk for their support throughout the year.

The meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.

Signed

Date

