

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 19th November, 2013**

There were no members of the public present.

PRESENT	Mr. E. Clark	Mrs. S. Sawyer
	Mr. V. Bielecki	Ms. P. Fisher
	Mr. R. House	Ms. P. Turner
	Mr. S. Uncles	Mr. K. Jackson
	Mr. D. Tucker	Mrs. K. Hayes
	Mr. W. Jameson	

Also in Attendance: PC Mark Hough

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. I. Greatwood and Mr. T. Carbin.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 22nd October, 2013, and the meeting of the Planning Committee held on the 12th November, 2013, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING (from the October PC meeting)

Minute 8 – Council Tax Support: The completed questionnaire had been returned to Wiltshire Council by the Clerk.

Minute 13a – PC-owned Bus Shelters: The Clerk had contacted Michael Grant to ask if he would be willing to clean them periodically, and she was waiting for a response from him.

Minute 13d – Whaddon Lane drains: The Clerk had contacted Mark Banks at Wiltshire Council and he had arranged for a new grip to be dug at the location.

Minute 13f – Post outside 235 Hill Street: The Clerk had reported the fact that ivy was growing up and around the pole and had been told that the ivy would shortly be cut down.

Minute 13g – Blocked drains by the War Memorial: This had been reported to Pat Whyte by the Chairman. He had also thanked Mark Banks for clearing and sweeping The Knap in readiness for the Remembrance Service.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

a) The Chairman reported that Heather Greatwood had kindly offered to represent the Parish Council for at least the first meeting of the Hilperton and Paxcroft Mead Art Project.

b) The Chairman and the Clerk had met recently with the developers/consultants of the proposed solar farm installation at Marsh Farm. He had since heard that they were planning to hold a public consultation at the rugby club rather than the village hall, which seemed a little odd.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

a) Mr. Clark had e-mailed the footpath warden, Paul Millard, concerning HILP 19, as neither Ms. Turner nor the Clerk had had a response from him when they both voiced their concerns about the fencing and general detritus at the Whaddon end.

- b) The results of the consultation and recommendation regarding the 2014/2015 local Council Tax support grant funding would go to Cabinet on the 21st November, and Mr. Clark said that the recommendation was that Wiltshire Council should grant to Town and Parish Councils 65% of the 2013/2014 grant. This percentage would be the same for all local councils.
- c) In conclusion, Mr. Clark reported on the recent increase in members' allowances, ranging from 1% for local members up to 20% for the leader of the council.

7. POLICE

PC Hough said that over the past month there had been seventy rural occurrences, twenty-one of which had been in Hilperton, with eight of these being actual crimes. He gave full details and his report is held on file. Ms. Turner voiced her concern at the speed at which cars were travelling along Devizes Road from the direction of the rugby club, about the time in the evening when the club matches finished. Mr. Jameson said he was concerned about the large commercial vehicle parked every night along Marsh Road, near the old nursery site, as he thought it was only a matter of time before someone drove into it. PC Hough said he would investigate both matters.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Allotment Matters

Mr. House said that he would shortly turn the water supply off at the allotment site. Mr. Bielecki said the Clerk might receive a letter from the Allotment Committee informing the Parish Council that only just over twenty allotment-holders had subscribed to their insurance scheme. After a short discussion it was agreed that when the Clerk next sent out invoices – in February, 2014 – she would draw plot holders' attention to their responsibilities for the provision of adequate and appropriate public liability insurance.

War Memorial Cleaning

The Clerk had been assured by James Long that their cleaning would not damage any lettering, and she had also received a written quote from Young Johnson. After a short discussion, it was agreed that some volunteers from the Parish Council should use their own methods to clean the War Memorial themselves, starting with an area at the back. If this was successful, they could move on to the more visible parts. Ms. Turner said it was the constant traffic that was making the Memorial so dirty, and their attempts could not cause any harm. The volunteers would have an experimental attempt early in December.

Trowbridge Community Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

In the absence of Mr. Greatwood, the Chairman confirmed that the next meeting would be held on the 29th January. 2014.

Governance Review for the Parish Boundary

The Chairman informed members that this issue was discussed by Wiltshire Council recently and a cross-party working party had been set up to consider this. They would report back in the new year. The Chairman spoke about the Ashton Park urban extension, south-east of Trowbridge, with 2,600 dwellings and 15ha of employment land proposed, making West Ashton, Southwick and North Bradley also interested in a governance review.

Sir William Roger Brown's (Coal) Charity

Under Standing Order 68, this item was classified as confidential.

The Clerk reported that two of last year's recipients were now no longer on the electoral roll, which left three still living in the parish. To these three one more was added, making a total of four. It was agreed that these four people should receive £20 each this Christmas, making a total of £80, £60 of

which would come from the interest which had accrued and £20 from the Chairman's allowance. (Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. House, all in favour).

Verge Cutting

Since the last meeting, several members had taken a look at the verges throughout the parish and it was suggested that the following stretches of grass could be left uncut:-

- The area by the cycle/footpath (red path) from the zebra crossing opposite Fieldways Hotel, Hilperton Road, sweeping around the back of Faverolle Way on down to the play area. The Hilperton Road end could have one gang width mower cut on each side of the path, leaving the rest of the grass to flourish.
- Either side of Hilperton Drive, behind the low fences, as this area could grow wild as a meadow.
- The Saxon Drive/Foxglove Drive walkway, down towards the play area. (Mark Banks to be contacted to see if this stretch is in the ownership of Wiltshire Council or Selwood Housing).

It was agreed that these suggestions should be put forward to Wiltshire Council now and the subject should be looked at again at the January, 2014, meeting. If agreed, then notice should be given to residents when a future Newsletter was prepared and distributed.

Community Orchard

Mr. Jameson had received the 30 saplings from the Woodland Trust, to be planted so as to form a 'copse' at the top, left-hand corner of the playing field, Whaddon Lane. It was agreed that the planting should take place on Saturday, 30th November, at 10.30 am, providing the weather was suitable. The Clerk had already contacted the 1st Hilperton Scouts, to see if they could provide some volunteers, and it was agreed that the allotment-holders (via Mr. Bielecki) and the two primary schools (via the Clerk and Chairman) should also be invited to take part. Mr. and Mrs. House would come along to supervise, together with Mr. Jameson and Mr. Bielecki, all of whom would bring spades. Mr. House said he would provide the fertiliser, and stakes might also be required.

Litter Bin Request – Trowbridge Road

A request had been made for a litter (dog-type) bin between the Lion and Fiddle and the kissing gate into the field behind St. Michael's Church, as there was no bin between the mini-roundabout at Stourton Park and the other side of the field. It was agreed that the Clerk should firstly contact Mark Banks, to see if Wiltshire Council would empty it and - if agreed - a new bin could be bought by the Parish Council and positioned on a post near the seat, bus stop and notice board.

Litter Bin – Hackett Place

The Chairman had received a complaint about the siting of the new litter bin at Hackett Place but, on hearing the reason the resident had given for her complaint, it was agreed that the new bin should not be moved. A letter of appreciation had also been received from another local resident.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

13/05181/TCA: Mr. K. Hannah, Oriel House, 74 Hill Street

Felling of one poplar tree, two ash trees, one plum tree and one poplar tree.

The Chairman said that, on looking through the application, it was found that a few of these trees had preservation orders on them. Yet there was no professional arboricultural report included with the application, nor any statement by the applicant as to how he might replace any of the trees. It was therefore agreed that an objection should be made to this application, and the case officer informed that the Parish Council would wish to see a specialist report on the state of the trees in question (Proposed by Mrs. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Jackson, ten in favour with one abstention from the Chairman)

Decisions

None received.

Notification of Appeal against Planning Enforcement Notice

12/00176/ENF: Mr. M. Miller, Sharkays, Whaddon Lane

Appeal lodged against the service of an enforcement notice issued by Wiltshire Council in connection with the above land and breach of planning regulations. The Clerk read out a letter written by Mr. Tucker in support of Mr. Miller's appeal. The Chairman had earlier reminded Mr. Tucker, however, that it was to the Planning Inspectorate that his comments should have been made, not the Parish Council, as the Inspector dealing with the appeal would be the one making the decision.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

a) There was none.

11. PUBLICATIONS

- a) CPRE: Field Work – Winter, 2013
- b) Bulletin: War Memorials Trust – November, 2013
- c) Clerks and Councils Direct – November, 2013
- d) The Clerk – November, 2013
- e) Countrywide Voice – Winter, 2013

12. ACCOUNTS**Payments authorised:****Since the last meeting**

Mrs. L. House, plants	£31.25
HELP Counselling Services – Section 137 Grant	£200.00

This meeting

Clerk's salary for November	£472.00)	
Clerk's expenses (including office rental)	£308.21)	£780.21
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – Wreath for War Memorial		£20.00
Alpha Taxis – Sunday Club transport (including £3.76 VAT)		£22.56
Trowbridge Town Council – contribution towards Grit Bins (including £20 VAT)		£120.00
Wessex Water – Allotment supply 6/4/13 to 22/10/13		£221.70

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) The Clerk said that Wiltshire Council would be giving priority to the clearing of brambles and other vegetation spilling over the pavement along the stretch of Devizes Road reported by Mr. Jackson recently.
- b) Mrs. Sawyer asked for the hedge on footpath HILP1 (where HILP1, 2 and 3 merge at the northern end) between the two kissing gates on the cemetery side to be cut back to a height of around 6 ft.
- c) The Chairman said that small snails were getting into the notice board along the Trowbridge Road and destroying all the paperwork. He said he would put some grease on the posts.

14. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

Due to time constraints for the parish magazine, some pre-meeting notes had been sent.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 17th December, with a Planning Committee meeting before this date. Ms. Turner gave her apologies for the December PC meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.43 p.m.

Signed Date