

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 17th December, 2013**

There were no members of the public present.

PRESENT	Mr. E. Clark	Mrs. S. Sawyer
	Mr. V. Bielecki	Ms. P. Fisher
	Mr. S. Uncles	Mr. K. Jackson
	Mr. W. Jameson	Mr. T. Carbin
	Mr. I. Greatwood	

Also in Attendance: PC Mark Hough

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Ms. P. Turner, Mrs K. Hayes, Mr. R. House and Mr. D. Tucker.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 19th November, 2013, and the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 3rd December, 2013, had been circulated. Under ‘Allotment Matters’ in Minute 8 of the PC meeting, Mr. Bielecki said that the second sentence should read. . . . Mr. House said the Clerk might receive a letter from the Allotment Committee. . . . Subject to this amendment the minutes were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING (from the November PC meeting)

Minute 6 –HILP 19 Footpath: The Clerk had heard from Paul Millard earlier in the day, who had informed her that the fence alongside the footpath had now been removed and the path was open and available. He also said that he had contacted Mrs Hayes about having a look at the problems with paths in the Hilperton Gap area.

Minute 8 – Sir Roger William Brown’s (Coal) Charity: The Clerk confirmed that money and Christmas cards had been sent to this year’s recipients.

Minute 8 – Verge Cutting: The Chairman said that he and the Clerk would have a site meeting with Norman Burgess from Wiltshire Council in the next few weeks.

Minute 8 – Litter Bin Request for Trowbridge Road: This would be discussed at the meeting with Norman Burgess.

Minute 8 – Litter Bin at Hackett Place: The Clerk had written to the resident who had complained about the siting of the bin.

Minute 13b) – HILP1: Paul Millard had been contacted about the need to cut back the hedge.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- a) The Chairman wished parish councillors a very Happy Christmas and said that seasonal refreshments would be available in the Village Hall bar after the meeting.
- b) The Chairman drew members’ attention to the fact that the dispensations granted regarding the setting of last year’s Precept had run out at the time of the May elections. The advice given to him now was that no-one needed a dispensation when the setting of the precept for 2014/15 was discussed and agreed at the January meeting.

- c) The planting of the saplings on the 30th November had gone very well and the Clerk was asked to thank the Scouts for coming along to lend a hand.
- d) The Chairman and Heather Greatwood had recently met the Hilperton Art Project team, and the Chairman said that interviews of potential artists would be held in January. Thanks were expressed for Heather's assistance in this project.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

- a) Mr. Clark referred to the public disquiet regarding the level of the leader of Wiltshire Council's allowance increase, there was still a petition on line about members' allowances, and a meeting had been called for the 4th February, 2014, in an attempt to rescind the decision regarding these increases.
- b) Talks had begun between the Wiltshire and Dorset Fire Services, and Mr. Clark said it was probable that the two would merge in the near future.
- c) Wiltshire Council had been discussing the 2014/15 tax base earlier in the day. The number of Band D properties in Hilperton had been set at 1871, a slight increase over last year.

7. POLICE

PC Hough said that over the past month there had been 54 rural crimes, 20 of which had been in Hilperton. He gave full details and his report is held on file.

In addition, the Chairman said that he had requested 20mph repeater signs to be installed along Devizes Road.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Allotment Matters

The Clerk had received notification from the Allotment Association that at least two sheds had been broken into recently, and the police had been notified. Not all plot holders had chosen to be members of the Association and a list of current members had been sent to her. Mr. Jackson brought up the subject of allotment charges for 2014, saying that it was likely the recommendation from the sub-committee would be not to make any increase in the rate: This would be discussed at the January PC meeting.

War Memorial Cleaning

Mr. and Mrs House's efforts to clean the War Memorial had worked out very well, and in their opinion further expenditure was unnecessary. They would both be happy to give the Memorial a spruce up again before any events in 2014. Thanks were expressed to both Mr. and Mrs House and also to Mr. and Mrs Jamieson from Cherry Gardens for providing power and water for the task.

Trowbridge Community Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

Mr. Greatwood had nothing to report other than to confirm that the next meeting would be held on the 29th January. 2014.

Cleaning of Parish Council-Owned Bus Shelters

A quote had been received from Michael Grant of Hilperton Home and Garden Maintenance to provide year-round cleaning maintenance for the bus shelters in Horse Road (one), Hill Street (two) and Trowbridge Road (one). There would be three visits a year (one every four months) at a cost of £300 a year. Floors would be swept, windows cleaned, cobwebs and dust removed and seats cleaned as and when necessary. It was agreed that this quote should be accepted and Mr. Grant asked to start the work in January. (Proposed by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Greatwood, all in favour).

Grant Application from Hilperton Presents

The Clerk said that Hilperton Presents were about to embark on a project to commemorate and honour the contribution made by the people of Hilperton in World War One. The plan was for all the cast and team to wear black tee shirts with white inscriptions bearing the Hilperton village crest and the words ‘Hilperton’s Lovely War 1914-1918’. They would need around thirty tee shirts costing between £8 and £10 each to produce and these would be worn firstly in January/February, 2014, and again at the full production in November, 2014. After a short discussion, it was agreed that a Section 137 grant of £240 should be made (proposed by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Uncles, six in favour with three abstentions). It was also agreed that Hilperton Presents should be asked to acknowledge the grant given by the Parish Council in the production’s programme.

(Neither the Chairman nor Mr. Greatwood took part in the discussion or the vote following it)

Wiltshire Council – Proposal to prohibit vehicles turning right from the A361 Devizes Road into the Trowbridge Rugby Club access road

It was agreed that this proposal should have the support of the Parish Council.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

There were none.

Decisions

13/04791/FUL: Mr. J. Robinson, 36 Painters Mead, Paxcroft Mead

Proposed new extension to the front with a new covered porch – permission given.

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

Felling of poplar tree, elder tree, two ash trees and one plum tree – approval given.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Letter of thanks from the HELP Counselling Services re. grant given recently.

11. PUBLICATIONS

a) Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services – Public Safety Plan 2013/14 to 2016/17

b) Paxcroft Mead Residents’ Association – Minutes of a meeting held on the 19/9/13 and Agenda for a meeting held on the 21/11/13

c) Wiltshire Music Centre – Annual Review 2012/13

d) Paxcroft Mead Community Centre Management Committee – Minutes of a meeting held on the 13/11/13

e) Local Council Review – Winter, 2013

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:

Since the last meeting

Cash for charity recipients		£80.00
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This meeting

Clerk’s salary for December	£472.00)	
Clerk’s expenses	£118.60)	£590.60
Society of Local Council Clerks – Annual membership renewal		£101.00
Alpha Taxis – Sunday Club transport (including £4.12 VAT)		£24.72
Hilperton Home and Garden Maintenance – repair and refitting of one of the village entrance signs		£60.00

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) The Chairman asked if any parish councillor would be interested in attending a day's 'refresher' course sometime in 2014. He said he would get some details from WALC to see what courses were available.
- b) Discussion took place on the community speed watch scheme and the lack of volunteers willing to give their time.
- c) Mr. Jackson said that the 'C' in Church Street on the sign near the stocks appeared to have disappeared. The Chairman said he would take a look.
- d) Discussion took place on the allotment land option issue, and it was agreed that this should be an agenda item for the January, 2014, meeting. Before this it was felt that it would be helpful for the sub-committee to get together.

14. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

Due to time constraints for the parish magazine, no items had been forwarded this month.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 21st January, 2014, with a possible Planning Committee meeting before this date. Mr. Jameson gave his apologies for the January meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.

Signed Date