

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 21st January, 2014**

There were five 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. T. Carbin	Mr. D. Tucker
	Mrs K. Hayes	Mr. R. House
	Ms. P. Turner	

Also in Attendance: PC Mark Hough

Before the start of the meeting, Mr. Ben Coles spoke against planning application 13/06879/OUT (Heron Land and Gallagher UK, land south of Devizes Road); Mrs Claire Gregory spoke against planning application 13/06950/FUL (Mr. S. Clark, 154 Wyke Road). The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.40 pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. W. Jameson and Mr. I. Greatwood.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Agenda Item 8 – Allotment Rates setting: Mr. R. House and Mr. V. Bielecki, as allotment-holders.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 17th December, 2013, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 13a: No details had yet been sought from WALC regarding ‘refresher’ courses for parish councillors, and it appeared that no-one was greatly interested in attending any.

Minute 13c: The state of the Church Street sign had been reported to Wiltshire Council.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

a) The Chairman wished parish councillors a Happy New Year.

b) With regard to the Hilpertont Art Project, both he and Heather Greatwood attended a meeting recently where prospective artists were interviewed; so progress was being made.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

a) Mr. Clark said that he had called in, for determination by the planning committee, planning application 13/06879/OUT.

b) He informed members that the Area Board had made the sum of £10,000 available for World War 1 commemoration events, and applications would be accepted from tomorrow.

7. POLICE

PC Hough said that over the past month there had been forty-two rural crimes, eleven of which had been in Hilpertont. He gave full details and his report is held on file. He also gave details of the Day of

Action being organised by the Trowbridge NPT on Friday, 28th February. He then answered a few questions raised by members of the Parish Council.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Allotment Matters: Rates for 2014/2015

Councillors Bielecki and House left the room.

The allotment sub-committee had met recently, and Mr. Jackson said that their recommendation was to maintain the existing rates for another twelve months. This recommendation was seconded by the Chairman, with all in favour.

Councillors Bielecki and House returned to the meeting

Allotment Matters: Land Option Issue

Mr. Jackson had prepared an 'Allotments Phase 2 Budget Project Costs' paper, copies of which were tabled. With twenty-four residents of the parish on the waiting list, together with another sixteen residing outside the parish, there was no doubt a need for more allotment land, and provision for the purchase of this had been included in the budget for 2014/2015, which would be discussed later. The Clerk reminded members that the option must be taken up by October, 2016. Mr. Jackson said that, setting aside around 300 square metres for a community orchard, he predicted that the remaining land would produce a 'break-even' situation in just over 28 years (if there were 28 plots) or 30 years (if there were 27 plots).

Approval of the Budget and Setting of the Precept for 2014/2015

Copies of four suggested budgets (a, b, c and d) had been sent to every parish council member. The Chairman said that the estimated number of Band D properties in the parish was 1871.82. Therefore the four scenarios would be:-

- a) The charge remaining at £12.75 (no increase) which would bring in a Precept of £23,865.70. This would be 'topped up' by Wiltshire Council to the tune of £1,683.94, giving a total Precept of £25,549.64.
- b) The charge increasing to £13.00 (or 1p a week) which would bring in a Precept of £24,333.66 which, with the 'top up' of £1,683.94 would produce a total Precept of £26,017.60.
- c) The charge increasing to £14.00, (or 3p a week) which would bring in a Precept of £26,205.48 which, with the 'top up' of £1,683.94 would produce a total Precept of £27,889.42
- d) The charge increasing to £15.00, (or 5p a week) which would bring in a Precept of £28,077.30 which, with the 'top up' of £1,683.94 would produce a total Precept of £29,761.24.

After a long discussion, the 3p a week increase was agreed (i.e. Budget option c). This was proposed by Mr. Carbin, seconded by Mr. Jackson, with ten in favour and one against. It was also agreed that funds would be assigned to various projects such as the purchase of more allotment/community orchard land, traffic calming on completion of the Hilperton relief road, and long-term play equipment upgrading.

Trowbridge Community Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

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

Bridleway/Footpath HILP33 – Middle Lane

A letter had been received from Paul Millard saying that Wiltshire Council had asked for some funding to improve the surface of HILP33 from the developers who would be building the Hilperton relief road. The amount currently stood at a little over £22,000 and he wondered if the Parish Council could come up with some ideas on how the money should be spent. The Chairman's view was that no improvements should be made until the unmade road/bridleway (Middle Lane/HILP33) was severed in two by the relief road, as the recent levelling with scalpings had already led to increased use. This was

generally agreed but – looking to the future - Mr. House suggested the use of collapsible bollards to stop cars from being driven along the path, or parking. At some point it might be an idea to reduce the width of HILP33 to that of a cycle track, one half with a hard surface for pedestrians and cyclists and the other with a gravelly, shingle-type base suitable for horses. Lighting would be advisable, and trees could be planted on either side of the track. It was agreed that this suggestion should be put forward, and to ask Mr. Millard a) for his own ideas and b) confirmation that the developer would be providing separate funding to install the Pegasus crossing.

Parish Council Help/Advice for Parishioners in Situations

Ms. Turner had suggested to the Chairman that the Parish Council might think about offering advice, support and help to parishioners at times of crisis. Such a scheme would not need a capital budget as such – more a volunteer to be the contact point when organisations such as the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council had busy telephone lines. Ms. Fisher kindly volunteered to become the Parish Council's emergency co-ordinator, and the Clerk was asked to inform Wiltshire Councillor Jonathon Seed about this.

Grant Request from Victim Support

The Clerk gave details of the work carried out by the charity, to which grants had been given by the Parish Council in the past. Over the last year eleven parishioners had been given support and a contribution was being asked towards the ongoing work for the year ahead. It was agreed that a Section 137 Grant of £300 should be made (proposed by Mrs Hayes, seconded by Mr. Jackson, all in favour).

Parking Issues in Newleaze

This had been mentioned by PC Hough in his report, and the Clerk had received a call from a resident of Newleaze complaining that parked cars were preventing her carer from parking near her house in order to deliver groceries etc. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should put together a letter to the resident suggesting that as it was perfectly legal for drivers to park along the road, and as it was busy mostly at dropping-off and picking-up times at the school, would it be possible for the carer to come at another time.

Damaged Bench in The Knap

The Chairman said that the bench, which had been put in place to commemorate The Queen's silver jubilee, was now damaged, probably beyond repair. It was agreed that Ian Cradock should be asked to remove it and the subject of its replacement should be discussed at the March PC meeting.

Litter Bins

Following a meeting between the Chairman, Clerk and Norman Burgess from WC, a suitable place to position a new litter bin along the Trowbridge Road had been agreed. Wiltshire Council would order it, put it up and empty it, and the Parish Council would pay for the purchase of the bin. The Clerk also reported that she had ordered a new litter bin for the Village Hall car park.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

13/06950/FUL: Mr. S. Clark, 154 Wyke Road

Proposed greenhouse

Following the objection raised before the start of the meeting, the Clerk also read out letters from neighbours concerned about this proposal. It was agreed that the Parish Council should object strongly to the application on the grounds that the scale of the proposed greenhouse was out of proportion for residential use and out of keeping with the position of the house. There would be very little access

around the structure relative to the width of the garden, and the polycarbonate sheeting panels could be potentially noisy in inclement weather. Added to this was the possibility of flooding, as there were no plans to provide guttering and water would not soak into the ground but would run off towards adjacent properties. (Proposed by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Ms. Fisher, nine in favour with two abstentions from the Chairman and Mr. Carbin).

13/06879/OUT: Heron Land and Gallagher UK, land south of Devizes Road

Erection of 15 dwellings and associated works

It was agreed that the Parish Council should strongly object to this application, being outside Village Policy Limits, not offering 100% affordable housing and not being either for agricultural or forestry workers' use. The recent appeal decision on the old nursery site in Marsh Road would support the opinion regarding the Village Policy Limit, and the historically adjacent site in Devizes Road was refused permission on appeal as being outside Village Policy Limits. Also, with reference to the West Wiltshire District Plan, the Inspector said – albeit some years ago – that it was important to keep a visual gap between 'old' Hilperton and 'new' Paxcroft Mead so that the village retained its identity. (Proposed by Mr. Bielecki, seconded by Mrs Hayes, eight in favour with three abstentions from the Chairman, Mr. Carbin and Mr. Tucker).

13/06989/FUL: Mr. J. Bradbrooke, 7 Maxcroft Lane

Proposed rear single storey extension and replacement of existing single storey extension to front

It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application.

13/07032/TCA: Mr. S. Cooper, The Chase, Church Street re: land adjoining 13 Whaddon Lane

Reduction in height of trees by approximately one metre to clear overhead telephone line.

It was agreed that an objection should be made to this application, due to the number of errors made in it such as the reference on the sketch plan to a 'new house'. This in fact should refer to a 'double garage and guest accommodation as permitted in 2012. It was also unclear who actually owned the trees in question, as the application stated them to be in the ownership of Wiltshire Council but they appeared to be on private land. Members could not understand why the trees needed to be reduced in height when there were no telephone lines near them.

Decisions

13/04990/FUL: Mr. C. Cottam, 75 Wyke Road

Two-storey rear extension – approval given.

13/05726/ADV: Trowbridge Rugby Club, Doric Park

Two free-standing entrance signs – approval given.

13/05777/FUL: Mrs T. Griffiths, 1 Whaddon Lane

Single storey rear extension – approval given

13/05960/FUL: Mr. and Mrs Butt, 341 Horse Road

Replacement conservatory to rear of property – approval given

10. CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

11. PUBLICATIONS

a) Clerks and Councils Direct – January, 2014

b) The Clerk – January, 2014.

- c) Paxcroft Mead Community Centre Management Committee – Minutes of a meeting held on the 13th December, 2013, and Agenda for a meeting on the 7th January, 2014.

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:

Since the last meeting:

Mr. E. Clark – refreshments for post PC December Christmas gathering plus gifts for Mrs Lesley House and Mr. and Mrs Jamieson of 1 Cherry Gardens in appreciation of their help and support re. the cleaning of the War Memorial

(Chairman's Allowance)	£44.58
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Hilperton Village Hall Club – Bar drinks for the post PC December Christmas gathering (Chairman's Allowance)	£58.35
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Hilperton Presents – Section 137 Grant	£240.00
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This meeting:

Clerk's Salary for January	£472.00)	
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Clerk's Expenses	£160.40)	£632.40
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Alpha Taxis – Sunday Club Transport (including £4.44 VAT)		£26.64
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CPRE Annual Subscription		£29.00
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13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

- a) Mr. Carbin reported that the litter bin in the Knap was cracked.
- b) Mrs Sawyer said that the drains in the village had been cleared earlier in the day
- c) Ms. Turner thanked the Parish Council for the Hilperton Presents grant and said the t-shirts looked very good.

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, 18th February, 2014, with the likelihood of a Planning Committee meeting before this date.

The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.

Signed Date