

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 18th February, 2014**

There was one member of the public present.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. S. Uncles, Mr. D. Tucker and PC M. Hough.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 21st January, 2014, had been circulated. The Chairman said that under ‘Parish Council Help/Advice for Parishioners in Emergency Situations’ – Minute 8 - the first sentence should have read ‘Ms. Fisher had suggested.....’ Subject to this amendment, the Minutes were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 8 - HILP 33: The Chairman said that there seemed to be some confusion between different departments at Wiltshire Council as to whether a ‘material commencement’ had been made on the construction of the Hilperton relief road. In response to a question to WAPC he had been told that the developers had indicated that they would be happy to amend the S.106 to extend the period of time for spending the monies. So there was no immediate hurry to come up with ideas for the bridleway.
Minute 8 – Parish Council Help/Advice for Parishioners in Emergency Situations: The Clerk had informed Wiltshire Council that Ms. Fisher had volunteered to become the Parish Council’s emergency co-ordinator.

Minute 8 – Victim Support: The grant cheque had been sent to them.

Minute 8 – Parking issues in Newleaze: The Clerk had written to the resident concerned.

Minute 8 – Damaged bench in The Knap: This had been removed and Mr. Cradock was looking after the plaque.

Minute 8 – Litter Bin for the Village Hall: The Clerk said that Mr. Gerald Butcher had taken delivery of the bin and post and would keep it until Michael Grant was able to put it in place.

Minute 13a – Cracked litter bin in The Knap: This had been reported to Norman Burgess.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman said that the Government had decided not to cap parish and town councils in 2014/2015 but was likely to do so from next year.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Mr. Clark said that Wiltshire Council's meeting to set the precept would be held on the 25th February. The recommendation was for no increase, which would undoubtedly mean cuts in services.

7. POLICE

In the absence of PC Hough, the Clerk reported that there had been 48 rural occurrences over the past month, 8 of which had been in Hilperton. His report is held on file.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Allotment Matters

Mr. Jackson had prepared a combined financial appraisal for the allotments, taking into account the costs previously reported. He predicted that the two schemes (allotment phases 1 and 2) would produce a break-even time period of around twenty-one years. He said he would send the Clerk a copy for her records.

The Clerk said that one allotment-holder had decided to give up his plot, and that she would be sending out invoices for the coming year early in March.

Trowbridge Community Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

Mr. Greatwood reported on the meeting held on the 29th January, which included discussion on 20mph speed limits, the Core Strategy, the upcoming NPT 'Day of Action' and other local matters. He said that Mr. Ken Oliver had been appointed canal officer. The Area Board's March meeting at the Civic Centre would discuss bus services, there would be a report from Balfour Beatty on the highways contract they had with Wiltshire Council, and a report on the social housing policy. Mr. Greatwood gave details of a forthcoming 'older people's' area board meeting which would take place at the Civic Centre on the 27th March, commencing at 10 am. He wondered if the PCLG should have a point of view in respect of the upcoming governance review, and it was suggested that they might look at this when they next met in April. Mr. Jackson also suggested that the group should 'resurrect' the BANES Cleveland Bridge weight restriction issue to find out the current state of play. As far as the Core Strategy was concerned, the Chairman said that concerns had been raised about the fact that the Inspector had 'thrown back' parts of it to Wiltshire Council, one of which was the number of houses planned for the period. It was feared that this would encourage speculative planning applications outside the current settlement boundary limits.

Possible Variation in the 2014/2015 Budget

The Chairman suggested three variations, as follows:-

Allotments - purchase of more land: increase from £5,000 to £6,000

Traffic Calming: increase from, £3,500 to £4,000

Play Equipment Upgrading: increase from £2,000 to £2,500

He said this was a booking-keeping exercise, but would have the effect of reducing the closing balance to £6,545. These variations were agreed (proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Bielecki, nine in favour with two abstentions).

Hilperton Art Project

The Chairman said that interviews had taken place and that an artist – Alex Murdin – had been appointed. There would be a meeting on the 14th March at the Village Hall when the artist would come up with ideas within the budget allowed under the Section 106 monies.

20 mph Speed Limits within the Parish (not allowed on A or B Roads)

The Chairman said that the purpose of a recent report by Wiltshire Council was to set out how 20mph speed limits and zones would be applied in the county following the publication of a DfT circular and the results of its own 20mph rural village trials. The report set out the criteria to be used for 20mph speed restrictions which did not include A or B roads. It was agreed that it would be difficult to come up with any suggestions for Hilperton that met the criteria, but this matter should be discussed further at the March meeting.

Wiltshire Council Road Traffic Regulation Order – A361 Devizes Road

The Clerk had received a copy of the Traffic Regulation Order which had come into effect on the 10th February. Mrs Hayes suggested that Wiltshire Council be asked to put a sign on the roundabout at the end of Devizes Road reading ‘Beware of U-Turning Traffic’ and this was agreed. The Clerk said she would contact Pat Whyte.

Hilperton C of E Primary School – Community Litter Picking

The Clerk had received a letter from the school’s Eco Group asking if they could join the Parish Council on one of its community litter picks. They could supply their own litter-picker-uppers and bright jackets. The group was hoping to do their litter pick within the Hilperton area, within easy walking distance from the school. A discussion followed and it was agreed that Saturday, 15th March, would be a suitable date. It was suggested that members of the Eco Group be invited to organise the pick themselves, under adult supervision, with Parish Council volunteers helping. The Clerk said she would write back to the head teacher.

Communication from Wiltshire Council officer re. various local matters recently reported

Norman Burgess had recently apologised for any delays in replying to correspondence, due to increased workloads dealing with flooding issues. To give an update on where things stood at the present time, he reported:-

- He had not yet had time to get a price for a post mounted litter bin for the Trowbridge Road, but he was working on this and could perhaps be in a position to put up a large ground-mounted bin instead and to discuss the cost with the Parish Council.
- Gullies: the one by the bus stop and others along the road would soon be cleared.
- He had received a report of a trip hazard near Painters Mead, the footpath had been inspected and the appropriate work would be done.
- He had not yet had time to investigate the ‘phantom tree remover’ in the Helpswell Road area but he would do this asap.
- Pat Whyte was dealing with the reported noisy manhole cover.
- He would shortly look at the reported cracked litter bin in the Knap.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

14/00377/FUL: Mr. M. Bayley, 185 Devizes Road

Extension and new garden room to the rear. Internal and minor external alterations to existing property, including re-roofing.

It was agreed that no objection should be made to this application but it should be pointed out to the case officer that the alterations were not exactly ‘minor’. (Proposed by Ms. Turner, seconded by Mr. Bielecki, all in favour).

14/00592/FUL: Mr. S. Gaiger, land north of Marsh Farm, Hilperton Marsh

Installation of ground mounted (PV) solar arrays to provide 10.1 MW generation capacity, plus transformer stations, landscaping, security fencing, access gate and ancillary infrastructure.

A detailed discussion took place concerning this application, taking into account the public consultation which had been held in December and the thoughts (both for and against) of members of the public and parish councillors alike. It was finally agreed that an objection should be made on the grounds that a) the proposed 2 metre high galvanised deer perimeter fencing (powder coated grey) would create an unacceptable visual impact, which could only be mitigated by the planting of fast-growing hedges, and b) the appearance of the panels themselves would create an unacceptable visual aspect, especially along the Kennet and Avon canal, this being a popular and busy tourist attraction area. (Proposed by Mr. Greatwood, seconded by Mr. Jameson, five in favour, four against, with two abstentions, one from the Chairman).

Decisions

13/07032/TCA: The Chase, Church Street, re. land adjoining 13 Whaddon Lane
Reduction in height of trees by one metre to clear overhead telephone line – no objection.

13/06989/FUL: Mr. J. Bradbrooke, 7 Maxcroft Lane
Proposed rear single storey extension and replacement of existing single storey extension to front – permission given.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter of thanks from Victim Support re. the grant recently given to them.
- b) Letter from Wiltshire Council re. series of neighbourhood planning events.

11. PUBLICATIONS

- a) Paxcroft Mead Community Centre Management Committee – Minutes of a meeting held on the 7th January, 2014, and Agenda for a meeting on the 4th February, 2014.
- b) Paxcroft Mead Residents' Association – Minutes of a meeting held on the 21st November, 2013, and Agenda for a meeting on the 23rd January, 2014.

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:

Since the last meeting:

Victim Support – Section 137 Grant	£300.00
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This meeting:

Clerk's Salary for February	£472.00	
Clerk's Expenses	£141.60	£613.60
Alpha Taxis – Sunday Club Transport (including £2.04 VAT)		£12.24
Glasdon UK Ltd., - Litter Bin and post for Village Hall (including £35.10 VAT)		£210.61
OfficeRight Ltd. – Stationery (including £4.32 VAT)		£25.94

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- a) Mr. Greatwood mentioned the possible benefits of developing a neighbourhood plan and suggested that the Parish Council should see what was involved in drawing one up.
- b) Mr. Carbin gave details of a litter pick in Staverton on the 23rd February.

14. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

The Clerk had sent details of the January PC meeting to the parish news.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

PART 2

The Chairman referred to Standing Order 68 and moved the following resolution: ‘that in view of the special nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and be instructed to withdraw’. This was seconded by Mr. Bielecki. But in view of the fact that the business to be transacted was in connection with the proposed solar farm at Marsh Farm, and that the Parish Council had already discussed the application and agreed its stance on the issue, it was agreed that the meeting should stay in public session.

POSSIBLE INCOME STREAM

The Chairman reminded members of the informal meeting he and the Clerk had attended some months ago with Mr. Sam Gaiger and a consultant from Renewable Developers Ltd. At that meeting the subject of community incentives where solar farms were planned was touched on. A letter had now been received from Hilperton PV Ltd., stating that they or whoever was the owner of the proposed solar farm, would be prepared to pay a sum of £750 per MW per annum to Hilperton Parish Council, the amount to be spent as the Parish Council saw fit. The proposed payment would be linked to RPI. Should planning permission be obtained, prior to construction a legally-binding contract would be drawn up and Hilperton PV Ltd. would pay all reasonable legal costs of the Parish Council.

It was unanimously agreed that the contents of this letter should be noted and the letter itself acknowledged.

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

Signed Date