

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 19th January, 2016**

There were no members of the public present.

PRESENT	Mr. E. Clark (Chairman)	Mrs. S. Sawyer
	Ms. P. Fisher	Mr. T. Carbin
	Mr. D. Tucker	Mrs K. Hayes
	Mr. W. Jameson	Mr. K. Jackson
	Mrs V. Packer	Ms. P. Turner

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. R. House, Mr. I. Greatwood and Mr. S. Uncles.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 15th December, 2015, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 8 – Smoke-free play park signage: The Clerk had passed on to Wiltshire Council the Parish Council's interest in having one positioned at the gateway to every play park in the parish.

Minute 8 – Whaddon Lane posts: The Chairman said that the two missing posts had been replaced.

Minute 8 - Re-Assessment of Wayleave Agreement: The Clerk had contacted the independent agents who said that photographic and – if possible - Land Registry evidence was required, together with details of each and every pole. The agents did not make site visits and until the information required could be forwarded to them, they would not be able to take this any further.

Minute 13a – Lorry Watch: The Chairman had spoken to the police about this but confirmed that it would not be practicable

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year. He informed members that Church Street would again be closed from the 20th January until the 26th January to enable Wales and West to trace and repair a gas leak. He also said that a representative from Trowbridge Town Council would be invited to the February meeting to update the Parish Council on the development of sports facilities adjacent to the rugby club.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Mr. Clark said that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire was considering an increase of 1.9% to cover the cost of policing in 2016/2017, which would bring in an additional £769,000 of local income.

Bus Service Consultation: Mr. Clark said that Wiltshire Council was undertaking a review of their subsidised bus services in Wiltshire and were seeking views of local people. Comments should be submitted by the 4th April.

Hopper Bus Service: Mr. Clark said this would be withdrawn from the 1st May, 2016. Trowbridge Town Council had written to the Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group and the Royal United Hospital Trust, asking them to provide an appropriate level of funding in partnership with Wiltshire

Council to ensure that the Hopper service continued in 2016 and the long term. It was agreed that the Parish Council should also write to voice its support.

7. POLICE

The Clerk had received a report from PCSO Ellie Porter which stated that the community policing team's current priority was tackling cyber crime. PCSOs had given lessons at all the local schools, ensuring that everyone was educated as to how best to use the internet and to prevent becoming a victim of cyber crime. Locally there had been a spate of thefts and non-dwelling burglaries from sheds and garages, there had been one burglary in Tudor Drive and one theft at Marsh Road filling station where an unknown suspect had stolen petrol. There had also been a report of anti-social driving along the Hilperton Road, where vehicles had been seen racing.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Approval of the Budget and Setting of the Precept for 2016/2017

Copies of the draft Budget and Precept setting had been sent to each parish council member. There were four scenarios to consider in respect of the precept: a) the charge remaining at £14.28; b) the charge increasing by 1.1%; c) the charge increasing by 2%; d) the charge increasing by 5%.

A few amendments to the draft Budget in respect of Allotment income and expenditure were made, and the inclusion of expenditure provision in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan and the proposed Skate Park at Paxcroft Mead agreed. After a short discussion, it was also agreed that the Precept should remain at £14.28 with no increase. The Budget and the setting of the Precept were then formally approved. (Proposed by Mr. Carbin, seconded by Ms. Turner). Parish councillors who voted in favour were: Mr. T. Carbin, Ms. P. Turner, Mr. D. Tucker, Mrs K. Hayes, Mrs V. Packer and Ms. P. Fisher. Parish councillors who voted against were Mr. W. Jameson, Mr. K. Jackson and Mrs S. Sawyer. One Parish councillor, Mr. E. Clark, abstained.

(Note: the vote on the budget was recorded in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (Amendment) (England) regulations 2014 (SI 165 2014) which came into effect on the 25th February, 2014. Regulation 2 provides that votes at key budget decision meetings by local authorities should be recorded).

Allotment Matters/Community Orchard

The Allotment group's recommendation was that the existing rates should be maintained for the next year, and this was agreed. Mr. Jackson had prepared an up-to-date budget and financial appraisal which he went through for the benefit of members.

The Clerk said that £150 had been received so far in respect of tree sponsorship monies. Mr. Jameson said that the plan was to plant more trees and wondered if another grant could be applied for from the Area Board. It was agreed that an application should be made.

In conclusion, the Clerk had received an e-mail from a plot holder showing a picture of a shed which had been blown down.

Trowbridge Community Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

In the absence of Mr. Greatwood, there was nothing to report.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Working Party meeting held earlier in January had been well attended and another meeting was scheduled for the 20th January. Ms. Turner reiterated the point that the Neighbourhood Plan must be all-embracing and not specifically about development of the Hilperton Gap.

Community Governance Review

The Chairman said that no meeting of the Review Working Group had been arranged, so nothing had changed since the last PC meeting. He had, however, received a communication from the Secretary of the Paxcroft Mead Residents' Association, asking the Parish Council to send some information for

Paxcroft Mead residents on the Hilperton Parish Council proposals and the advantages for them being within the parish boundary. It was agreed that this should be done.

Skate Park – Paxcroft Mead

The Clerk had sent in the planning application and had just received notification from the planning department that the application cost would amount to £195. She said she would forward this to them the following day.

Speed Indicator Devices

The Chairman said that he still did not know what the likely cost would be but TCAF was organising a briefing session on Monday, 8th February, at Trowbridge Town Council Civic Centre from 12.30pm until 2pm.

Hilperton Relief Road – Noise Levels

The Chairman had received a reply to his e-mail to Wiltshire Council, which stated that planning conditions had been met and that noise from roads was not a statutory nuisance. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Environmental Health department at Wiltshire Council should be approached on this issue - which was causing a lot of concern to residents - and they should be asked if they could provide a decibel meter for use to measure traffic noise, especially on wet days when it appeared to be much worse.

Future Website Administration

In the absence of Mr. Greatwood, it was agreed that this should be discussed at the February PC meeting.

Grant Application – Victim Support

The Clerk was waiting for a report on how many people in the parish had been assisted since the Parish Council last gave a grant, and it was agreed to defer this matter to the February PC meeting.

Tree Work – Paxcroft Mead

The Chairman reported that Wiltshire Council was currently felling trees in various locations on Paxcroft Mead, much to the consternation of residents. Whilst it was accepted that trees close to houses, garages and fences might cause future subsidence problems, the number of trees that had been felled in other non-problematic areas was astounding. It was agreed that Wiltshire Council should be contacted about this, asked to ensure that an acceptable clearing-up operation would take place and that suitable new trees should be planted to replace those felled.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

15/11830/FUL: Mr. and Mrs J. Fowkes, 16 Dymott Square
Demolition of rear conservatory and erection of orangery
It was agreed that no objection should be made.

15/12327/FUL: Mr. and Mrs Webb, Southfield, Devizes Road
Two storey side extension
It was agreed that no objection should be made.

Decisions

15/11002/FUL: Mr. R. Wall, 37 Newleaze
Erection of rear conservatory – approval given

15/11717/TPO: Wiltshire Council – Stourton Park

Pines T5-T8 found to be the cause of direct damage to driveway. Felling of trees to ground level. Replacement trees to be suitable for the site and planted in an appropriate location so as to avoid damage occurring in the future – approval given.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letters of thanks from charity recipients.
- b) Post office – update on changes to Hilperton Marsh Post Office.
- c) Letter of thanks from the Paxcroft Mead Residents' Association for the Parish Council's agreement to submit the planning application for the skate park.

11. PUBLICATIONS

- a) The Clerk – January, 2016.
- b) Clerks and Councils Direct – January, 2016
- c) Paxcroft Mead Community Centre Management Committee – Minutes of a meeting held on the 8th December, 2015, and Agenda for a meeting on the 6th January, 2016.

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:

Clerk's Salary for January, 2016	£485.00)	
Clerk's Expenses	£154.24)	£639.24
CPRE Annual subscription		£36.00

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- a) Mrs. Sawyer referred to the damage to the grass verge in Greenhill Gardens (by the letter box) caused by large vehicles backing onto it. The Clerk to report this to Pat Whyte.
- b) The Chairman said there would be a new sign erected from the Staverton end of Hilperton, informing HGV drivers in advance of the weight limit and the route to the Hilperton Relief Road.
- c) Mr Jackson referred to an area of Middle Lane (the approach from Hilperton to where the horse crossing is) which was continually flooding as there was nowhere for water to go. The area in question either needed the levels raising or drainage put through to the culvert on the southern side. The Clerk to contact Pat Whyte.
- d) It was agreed that Paul Millard should be contacted to see if he could arrange for some planings to be laid along Middle Lane, as it was full of potholes.

14. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) Setting of the Precept and approval of the Budget.
- b) Details of the bus consultation and the efforts to save the Hopper service.
- c) Relief road noise levels.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 16th February, 2016. (Both Mr. Jackson and Mr. Carbin gave their apologies in advance), with a probable planning committee meeting before that date.

The meeting ended at 8.50 p.m.

Signed Date

