

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

There were no members of the public present.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr. Ian Greatwood.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Mr. R. House – Agenda Item 8: Community Governance Review. Mr. House declared an interest due to the fact that some clients of his were based in the area of concern.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 21st June, 2016, were approved and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- a) The Chairman had received an e-mail from David Huggins suggesting that now that the Parish Council's web site was becoming more 'affairs' based, rather than a repository for agendas and minutes, it might be time to restructure the site. It was generally thought this was a good idea and it would also enable the Parish Council to maintain it.
- b) Noise Assessment update – proposed Skate Park: The Chairman said it appeared there was room to rewrite the noise assessment in such a way as to get close to the requirements of the Environmental Health officer.
- c) The Chairman referred to the support the Parish Council had given in respect of the possible expansion of St. Michael's pre-school, by writing recently to Wiltshire Council's Childcare Co-ordinator. Ms. Turner said that the pre-school was going to start the process of applying for planning permission for a stand-alone, single storey facility, and asked if the Parish Council could keep this as an agenda item each month, so that updates could be given.
- d) The Chairman gave an update on the SIDS initiative. Together with Hilperton PC, West Ashton PC had also agreed to go ahead with the project, so funds would be set aside for it. Tim LeMare was now endeavouring to get an agreement with Southwick and North Bradley, and then a volunteer could be found and trained. The cost would be £210 for one day's training.

6 WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Mr. Clark said he had recently attended the annual Local Government Association conference, and gave details of matters that members of the Parish Council might find of interest.

7. POLICE

In the absence of a representative from the community policing team at the meeting, the Clerk read a report on issues occurring in the parish over the past month, and this is held on file.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Allotment Matters/Community Orchard

The Clerk said that three new Tenancy Agreements had been sent out (all on phase two allotment plots). Mr. House said that the orchard was looking good and the stone wall rebuilding was nearly completed. Ms. Fisher thanked Mr. House for the work he had recently done in removing a huge tree stump. Mr. House concluded by saying that he was going to give some advice to Semington Parish Council who were thinking of starting their own allotments.

Trowbridge Community Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group

Mr. Greatwood was not in attendance and the July meeting had not yet been held.

Summer Newsletter

The Chairman said that a Housing Needs survey was due to be undertaken by Wiltshire Council, in connection with the Neighbourhood Plan, and he had been told that a realistic start could be made on this at the beginning of September. As it was the Parish Council's responsibility to distribute the survey forms, and the envelopes would be left open in case the Parish Council had anything to insert, he suggested that the Newsletter could be distributed at the same time. This would now be an Autumn Newsletter, and Mr. Uncles said he would liaise with members of the Parish Council concerning its content, then arrange to have the Newsletters printed and ready to be sent out with the survey forms. The Chairman thanked Mr. Uncles for his efforts.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman said that the grant had been approved in the amount of £2,880, and the Community Rights Programme team would shortly be crediting the PC's bank account with this.

Ms Turner said 2,426 questionnaires had been delivered, and 288 hard copies plus 121 online replies received, making a 17% response rate, which was good. The data had now gone to the consultant for analysis. The Clerk was asked to thank Jenny Martin for all the work she had done regarding the questionnaires.

Community Governance Review

All members of the Parish Council present at the meeting had received copies of an e-mail sent from the 'Residents of HILPEXIT', and this communication from them was therefore considered as read.

The Chairman said that things did not go totally in favour of Hilperton Parish Council at the meeting of Wiltshire Council on the 12th July. The Trowbridge Town Council scheme (No. 22) had been approved, which would see everything south of the A361 (Hilperton Drive) become part of Trowbridge. This would affect about 200 houses and was not the recommendation of the CGR working group.

A detailed discussion then took place on a way forward, including the possibility of a Judicial Review. At the end of this discussion it was resolved that the Parish Council should investigate the feasibility of a Judicial Review against the Community Governance decision taken by Wiltshire Council on the 12th July, 2016, particularly with regard to schemes 18/22. Legal advice would need to be sought and it was further agreed that an amount of no more than £2,000 should be spent for initial legal advice only, including an indication from whichever firm of solicitors was consulted as to the likelihood of success, together with approximate costs involved. (Proposed by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mrs Packer, eight in favour and three against).

Middle Lane Matters

Following the June meeting, the Chairman had contacted Ian Cradock who had said he could dig a couple of grips either side of the lane where the problem kept occurring, at a cost of £40. This was

agreed. Mr. Jackson said that locking bolts had recently been removed from the two gates close to the relief road, and this had been reported to Wiltshire Council.

Trees along Trowbridge Road

The Chairman had been unable to get in touch with the Tree/Landscape officer and it was agreed that this matter should be held over to the September meeting.

Junction of Leap Gate and Hackett Place – Request for a Mini-Roundabout

The problems expected to be experienced following the opening of Leap Gate had not, in fact, materialised, and it was agreed that the Parish Council should at present keep an eye on the situation.

War Memorial/Blind House

The Clerk had contacted James Long who had since made an inspection of the War Memorial and Blind House. Their recommendation was to thoroughly machine and chemically clean the cross, dye and bases of the War Memorial. The joint which was opening at the Blind House would require repairing with a lime mortar mix. They would clean out the open joint to clear away all old mortar and re-point, as necessary. The cost for all this would be £725 (plus VAT). It was agreed that James Long should be asked to carry out this work. (Proposed by Mr. Carbin, seconded by Ms. Turner, all in favour).

Best Kept Village Competition

Results of the competition had been received, with Hilperton coming fourth in the large village category of West Wiltshire. Judges' comments had not yet been sent.

Funding for Play Areas

The Chairman had been informed by Wiltshire Council that they would offer a commuted sum to allow transfer of WC-owned play areas. The recent transfer offers were around £2,000 per play area, which would be 'one-off' payments with no revenue funding. Included in any transfers would be amenity land (if any) adjacent to the play areas. Ms. Turner kindly volunteered to inspect the play areas concerned, including the state of fencing, the play equipment, play surfaces etc., and come back to the Parish Council in the autumn with her findings. In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to acknowledge the e-mail received from Adrian Hampton at Wiltshire Council.

Grass Cutting

Some complaints had been received about overhanging growth and long grass at various locations on Paxcroft Mead. Grass had been left uncut at the request of the Parish Council to promote its growth and thus benefit butterflies, bees and other wildlife. However, the state of the overgrowth was very bad and the grass on the Paxcroft Mead 'mound' had not been cut, despite the Parish Council's request for it to be cut and left tidy. The Chairman said he would pursue this with Wiltshire Council. Complaints regarding the state of the roundabouts at either end of Elizabeth Way would also need to be referred to Wiltshire Council. Neither had yet been adopted by WC but they should be asked to put pressure on the developers to keep them mowed. In particular, there was a safety issue concerning the roundabout at the Horse Road end of Elizabeth Way, as crossing the road was dangerous, due to lack of vision because of the height of the grass etc.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

16/06163/TCA: Mrs K. Hannah, Oriel House, 74 Hill Street

Felling of Horse Chestnut Tree

It was agreed that no objection would be made to the application as long as the tree was dead, diseased or dying, and the proposed works were acceptable to the Tree/Landscape officer; bearing in mind the application form gave no indication as to why the tree needed to be felled.

16/06394/TCA: Mr. D. Harris, Spinneys Lea, 125b Ashton Road
 Felling of three evergreen trees and reducing the height of one yew tree below electric cable.
 It was agreed that no objection would be made to the application as long as the proposed works were acceptable to the Tree/Landscape officer.

Mr. House declared an interest and left the room during discussion of the following application.

16/01633/OUT: Land at The Grange, Devizes Road - Erection of up to 26 dwellings: outline application, all matters reserved other than access – amended plans.

It was agreed that the objections made by the Parish Council in March, 2016, should remain the same, subject to the removal of the comments regarding parking. (Proposed by Mr. Carbin, seconded by the Chairman, all in favour). Details of these objections are attached to the Minutes.

Mr. House returned to the meeting.

Decisions

16/04737/FUL: 218 Church Street

Two storey side extension and porch extension – approval given.

16/01352/FUL: 321 Marsh Road

Retrospective change of use to house of multiple occupation and internal alterations – approval given.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

11. PUBLICATIONS

a) Clerks and Councils Direct – July, 2016.

b) The Clerk – July, 2016.

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised:

Since the last meeting:

Mrs L. House – Compost and Bedding Plants	£69.19
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This meeting:

Clerk's Salary for July, 2016	£485.00)	
Clerk's Expenses	£191.96)	£676.96
Officeright – Stationery (including £6.10) VAT		£36.62

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

a) Mrs Hayes said that the white posts at the top end of Hill Street looked a little shabby. This to be reported to the Parish Steward when the scheme starts again in September.

14. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

a) Neighbourhood Plan update

b) Community Governance update

c) Agreed works to the War Memorial and Blind House

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 20th September, with a Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday, 9th August, 2016. The Chairman said that an extraordinary meeting may have to be arranged in respect of the CGR/Judicial Review before the full September PC meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.

Signed Date