

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.45 p.m. on Tuesday, 17th September, 2019**

There was one member of the public present.

PRESENT	Cllr. E. Clark	Cllr. S. Sawyer
	Cllr. S. Uncles	Cllr. R. House
	Cllr. T. Carbin	Cllr. K. Hayes
	Cllr. P. Fisher	Cllr. D. Tucker
	Cllr. D. Swift	

Before the start of the meeting, Mrs S. Sloper spoke about Marshmead residents' request for white posts to be installed around the green to stop vehicles parking on it. The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.48pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. P. Turner.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

Planning application 19/08294/FUL: Cllr. Uncles, being a near neighbour, and Cllr. House, having previously sold the house.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 16th July, 2019, were approved and signed.

4. CLERK'S REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minute 6b - Request for a temporary warning sign on the approach to the new parking spaces in the village from the direction of Staverton: The Chairman had approached Wiltshire Council again, but they still said they could not provide an appropriate sign.

Minute 8 – Whaddon 30mph signs: The Clerk had e-mailed Kirsty Rose at WC to say that the Parish Council would contribute £80 towards the signs. An invoice would be sent once the work had been completed.

Minute 8 – Grant requests from the Village Hall: The Clerk had sent off cheques for the grants agreed.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

a) The Chairman informed members of the interest shown by the owners of the solar farm as to how the Parish Council was spending the money given each year. The Clerk had told them about the defibrillator initiative.

b) The Chairman said that he hoped members had enjoyed the summer and (in her absence) he thanked Cllr. Turner for chairing the July meeting.

c) The Chairman was pleased to say that the Village Hall lighting scheme had been completed.

5. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Clark said that a number of residents had expressed concerns about parking in Church Street (in the area of the village pump). However, Wiltshire Council's attitude was that if drivers of vehicles coming from the Hill Street end stuck to the 30mph speed limit, there should be no problem. The fact that many drivers exceeded the speed limit appeared to be of no concern to them.

Cllr. Hayes mentioned that some of the pavements in Horse Road had been tarmacked recently, but looked very ‘patchy’. Cllr. Clark said this had probably been done for safety reasons but he would make some enquiries.

7. POLICE

PCSO Matthew Till was unable to attend the meeting, but had sent a report which the Clerk had forwarded to members. (The report is held on file). She also gave a copy to Cllr. Tucker.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Allotment Matters/Community Orchard

Cllr. House said all the plots were now let. Volunteers had come together to make steps out of oak sleepers for the orchard shed, and the cost of this, together with screws etc., had come to £158.49, which Mark Newbery had paid. This money would need to be refunded to him by the Parish Council.

In conclusion, Cllr. House said that the grass would be cut back shortly.

Works for the Parish Steward

The Chairman had received an e-mail from Cllr. Hayes about the roads around the Wyke Road/Towpath Road/Navigator Close area being very overgrown. She also said that leaks in gutters throughout the village were a problem.

Defibrillators – update

The Chairman said that the third defibrillator, at the Lion and Fiddle, was now in place and up and running. The Clerk had recently contacted the new head teacher of Hilperton School, who had replied that he was definitely ‘on board’. She had yet to receive a response from Marsh Stores. It was agreed that the Parish Council should now concentrate on getting the final two defibrillators installed.

Through Traffic Movement: Devizes Road Blocking

The Chairman had received an e-mail from Kirsty Rose outlining details of the options that could be employed on Devizes Road to deter/prevent through traffic. He had forwarded her e-mail to parish councillors to consider. After a discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should get together to come up with appropriate wording for the initial consultation, to enable the Parish Council to get a ‘feel’ for the wishes of residents. This should be sent to Wiltshire Council first of all before coming back to the Parish Council.

Through Traffic Movement: King’s Arms Junction Redesign

Another e-mail had been sent from Kirsty Rose with her proposals for improvements at the Marsh Road/Hammond Way junction. Her aim was to make the straight through route on Marsh Road from west to east less attractive and more difficult. The cost of these changes would be in the region of £30,000. He had again e-mailed details to parish councillors, and a discussion followed. It was generally felt that the plan was too ‘subtle’ and – as it stood – would not be worth the costs involved. It was therefore agreed that the Parish Council should go back to Wiltshire Council to say it was expecting something more radical for the £30,000 quoted. Changes to road signage would also be needed.

Under Standing Order 68 the following agenda item was classified as confidential and conducted in closed session.

Parish Council Vacancies

The Chairman reminded members that four applicants had come forward to fill three vacancies. This matter could a) be discussed at the October PC meeting, when each candidate could be invited to come along; b) be discussed at a special PC meeting before the October meeting; c) be discussed by a sub-committee set up for that purpose, to report back to the Parish Council; or d) be discussed at this meeting and a decision made.

It was agreed that option d) would be the best way forward. Details of all four applicants were given to Parish Councillors, and they were given time to inspect the application letters. Three of the applicants were currently residents of the parish, and the fourth resided in Trowbridge, although well inside the three-mile boundary.

After a discussion, it was agreed that the three vacant places should be offered to the three Hilperton applicants so that they could be co-opted to the Parish Council. It was further agreed that if any of these three applicants declined to be considered for co-option, then that place should be offered to the Trowbridge applicant.

Dog Fouling along Elizabeth Way

The Chairman said that in the 'Southfields' area there were two bins very close to each other, and it was agreed that – if Wiltshire Council was prepared to take one of these away and then replace it with a bigger, round bin on a suitable site along Elizabeth Way – the Parish Council would pay for the extra costs involved.

Cllr. Sawyer reminded the Chairman that the litter bin which had been taken away by Wiltshire Council (in Horse Road, opposite St. Mary's Church) had never been replaced, and the Chairman said he would look into this.

Request for a Speed Limit reduction along the stretch of highway from Lacock Gardens to Devizes Road

This request had been received from a resident of Cresswell Drive, who said that this stretch of road was the only part of the A361 with a staggered junction and a 50mph hour speed limit. The rest of the A361 on Paxcroft Mead had a 40mph limit. Each year the flow of traffic had become a lot heavier and she was concerned that an accident might happen. She had sent this request to Wiltshire Council via their 'Highways Improvement Request' form but it required the support of the Parish Council. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should support the request. (Proposed by Cllr. Carbin, seconded by Cllr. Hayes, all in favour). The Clerk was asked to contact Kirsty Rose about this issue.

Grant Requests:

St. Mary's Church – to help towards the purchase of new Gas Heaters

The Clerk read out a letter received from the Treasurer of the PC about the state of the gas heaters in the hall, after only one of them had passed a recent inspection. The cost to replace the two other heaters would cost in the region of £4,020. The PCC would be applying for a grant from the Trowbridge Area Board and – if successful – this would meet 50% of the costs.

After a discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should make a Section 137 grant in the amount of £1,500 (Proposed by Cllr. House, seconded by Cllr. Uncles, all in favour).

The Village Hall – to help towards the repair/replacement of Play Area Seats/Tables

The Clerk read out a letter from the Chairman of the Village Hall who said that a recent safety inspection had identified a number of timbers in benches, and the picnic table in the fields outside the hall, that would need replacing. A quote had been received for replacement of all timbers and repainting of six benches and a picnic table in the sum of £3,000, but he felt that using a local craftsman with volunteer help a partial timber replacement could be done for a lot less. He estimated around £750 (plus VAT) but certainly under £1,000 (plus VAT). It was agreed that the Parish

Council should fund this work, as this amenity was for public use rather than Village Hall users. (Proposed by Cllr. Carbin, seconded by Cllr. House, seven in favour with two abstentions from the Chairman and Cllr. Sawyer, as Trustees of the Village Hall). The Chairman of the Village Hall should be asked to ensure that the invoice for the wood was sent to the Parish Council.

Marshmead – to help towards purchasing and installing white posts on the green by the Willow Tree

The Chairman said that at last year's 60th anniversary of the construction of the first houses in Marshmead, £333 had been raised by local residents to put towards the installation of posts around the green, in order to stop cars from parking on it. Wiltshire Council had been contacted and had asked for a quote from its own contractors, Ringway. This had been received, with the cost for the provision and installation of 23 posts in the amount of £2,328.82. After a discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would fund the amount quoted, less the amount already raised. (Proposed by Cllr. Uncles, seconded by Cllr. House, all in favour).

Wiltshire Search and Rescue – to help towards their fund-raising

The Clerk read out a letter received from the fundraiser of Wiltshire Search and Rescue, after which a discussion took place and it was agreed that a Section 137 grant of £250 should be made. (Proposed by Cllr. Sawyer, seconded by Cllr. Uncles, all in favour).

Auto Speed Watch (for information only)

The Chairman gave details of an auto speed watch initiative, which had been brought to the attention of Wiltshire Police. They were currently reviewing what functionality would help them best develop speed watch and they would keep the Parish Council updated.

Community Governance Review – possible boundary amendments

The Chairman said that Trowbridge Town Council was currently holding a meeting, and it looked as if they would be asking for a transfer of the land on the Trowbridge side of Elizabeth Way from Hilperston to Trowbridge. Discussion took place on whether or not the Parish Council should itself seek the transfer of land east of Leapgate back to Hilperston, and it was agreed to defer this matter until the October PC meeting.

Traffic Noise along Elizabeth Way

Cllr. Hayes had written to the Trowbridge Area Board to say that, since Elizabeth Way had opened, the noise from traffic, and the light pollution caused by headlights shining into peoples' homes had vastly increased. She wondered if the Area Board could do anything to mitigate these issues. She had been told that she and other residents would first need the support of the Parish Council before any consideration by CATG. If the Parish Council gave its support it would be responsible for raising the issues with them. It was agreed that the Parish Council should support this issue, the Clerk should liaise with Cllr. Hayes, and notification sent to Liam Cripps, Trowbridge Community Engagement Manager.

Village Hall – Outdoor Toilets

This matter was not discussed, as the Village Hall Management Committee had decided against the provision of outdoor toilets.

Elizabeth Way – New Crossing Points

A request had been received from a local resident for the Parish Council to contact Wiltshire Council to try to get them to install pedestrian crossings on Elizabeth Way. When the relief road received planning permission from West Wiltshire District Council years ago, two 'panda' light controlled crossings were intended – one at each end of the road. However, when the road was built Wiltshire Council allowed the developer NOT to put crossings in, the money being 'ringfenced' and held by the Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council should contact CATG on this issue, as there were many concerns about speed along the road.

Possible addition to ‘Hilperton’ signs – a Domesday Village

It was agreed that this should be discussed at the October PC meeting.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

19/07508/FUL: Mr and Mrs G. S. Holding, 65 Newhurst Park, Paxcroft Mead

Single storey extension

It was agreed that there should be no objection to this application

19/06300/WCM: Mr and Mrs J. Holloway, Bekson Farm, 54 Whaddon Lane

Change of use to waste recovery operation, and siting of a biomass boiler and container for the control unit.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should re-iterate its response sent in July, i.e. ‘no comment’ as it was not qualified to make any other remarks. However, the planning authority should be asked to ensure that the products being burnt in the boiler were not producing any harmful emissions.

Before the following application was considered, Cllr. Uncles spoke about problems with water pressure and the disposal of sewage in the Greenhill Gardens area.

19/08294/FUL: Mr. M. Singer, land adjoining 27 Greenhill Gardens

Erection of a two-storey, three-bedroomed detached house, parking and associated works.

It was agreed that an objection should be made to this application on the following grounds:-

- Lack of amenity space
- Loss of hedges and other vegetation
- Concern over the safety of vehicular access
- Problems with water pressure and sewage disposal

(Five in favour, with four abstentions from the Chairman and Cllrs. House, Uncles and Carbin).

Decisions

10/04892/FUL: 1 Cherry Gardens

Removal of UPVC porch and erection of larger replacement porch – approval given

19/05927/FUL: Avonfield Gardens, Marsh Road

New twin polytunnel – approval given

19/04953/FUL: 22 Marshmead

Erection of first floor extension, new front porch and associated works – approval given

19/06477/FUL: 99a Church Street

Creation of new vehicular access and off-road parking area – approval given

10. CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

11. PUBLICATIONS

- a) Clerks and Councils Direct – September, 2019
- b) WALC Newsletters – August and September, 2019
- c) CPRE: Field Work and Countryside Voice – Summer, 2019
- d) Local Council Review – Summer, 2019

12. ACCOUNTS**Payments authorised since the last meeting:**

Hilperton Village Hall – Section 19 Grant, new lighting	£1,000.00
Hilperton Village Hall – Section 19 Grant, playing fields etc.	£2,695.87
Mrs Lesley House – compost	£21.00
OfficeRight – Office supplies, including £24.53 VAT	£147.15
Id Verde – planting/maintenance of planters, July, 2019 (including £20.27 VAT)	£121.60
Id Verde – extra grass cutting, July, 2019 (including £36.75 VAT)	£220.48
South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust – Defibrillator for the Lion and Fiddle (including £200.00 VAT)	£1,200.00
Berni White Limited – Electrical work for the installation of Defibrillator at the Lion and Fiddle (including £34.00 VAT)	£204.00
Clerk’s Salary for August, 2019	£512.00
Clerk’s Expenses	£178.95
	£690.95
Payments authorised this meeting:	
Clerk’s Salary for September, 2019	£512.00
Clerk’s Expenses	£139.05
	£651.05
IdVerde – planting/maintenance of planters, August, 2019 (including £20.27 VAT)	£121.60
Id Verde – extra grass cutting, August, 2019 (including £36.75 VAT)	£330.48

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were none.

14. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS/LOCAL PRESS

- a) Grants given.
- b) Co-option of new members to the Parish Council
- c) Request for a speed limit reduction from Lacock Gardens to Devizes Road
- d) Elizabeth Way – new crossing points
- e) Traffic noise and light pollution along Elizabeth Way

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 15th October, 2019.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

Signed Date