

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.45 p.m. on Tuesday, 18th February, 2020**

PRESENT	Cllr. E. Clark	Cllr. S. Sawyer
	Cllr. S. Uncles	Cllr. R. House
	Cllr. K. Hayes	Cllr. D. Swift
	Cllr. G. Boreham	Cllr. P. Turner
	Cllr. D. Smokcum	Cllr. P. Fisher

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. Carbin.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

Planning application 19/11882/VAR: Cllr. House, the developers being clients of his.

Planning application 19/11882/VAR: Cllr. Clark, having called the application in.

Planning application 20/00743/FUL: Cllr. House, the applicant being a client of his.

Planning application 20/00657/TCA: Cllr. Boreham, being the applicant.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on the 17th December, 2019, and the 21st January, 2020, were approved and signed.

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

December, 2019:

Minute 8 – Request for a reduction in the speed limit along the A361 between the start of the speed restriction adjacent to the Trowbridge RFC to the roundabout with Ashton Road: The Clerk had forwarded the traffic survey request form to Wiltshire Council.

Minute 8 – New parking area in Church Street: The Clerk had contacted Kirsty Rose at Wiltshire Council about the problem and she intended to make both a day time and evening site visit.

Minute 8 – Mud on the road at Knapp: The Clerk had written to the owner concerned, who had then telephoned her to say that it was not caused by any of his vehicles. He had then gone to make an inspection and had telephoned again to say that he could not see any mud on the road.

Minute 8 – Remembrance Day, possible changes to the roll of honour: The Chairman had been in touch with Revd. John Rees, and Cllr. Turner had found a book which gave details of all the Christian names of those included on the roll of honour.

January, 2020:

The Clerk confirmed that the Precept request form had been sent to Wiltshire Council.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

There were none.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Clark said that the next full meeting of Wiltshire Council would take place on the 25th February, when the budget for 2020/2021 would be set. He also referred to the Housing Site Allocations Plan which would see probable development on land on the Trowbridge side of Elizabeth Way.

7. POLICE

PC Matthew Till was not in attendance but had sent a report on a burglary in Horse Road towards the end of January. The Parish Council had asked him recently to include in his monthly reports details

of any road traffic collisions but, after speaking to his inspector, he was told that this was not deemed to be relevant information for the community. The Clerk was asked to get back to PC Till to find out the contact details of his inspector, so the Chairman could write to him.

8.ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Approval of the Budget for 2020/2021

Copies of the draft budget had been sent to all parish councillors. The Chairman explained a few additions/alterations that had been made since last year and the budget was unanimously approved.

Allotment Matters/Community Orchard (to include rentals for the coming year)

Cllr. House said there was nothing to report other than the fact that there had been some damage to greenhouses during the recent bad storms. Discussion took place on the allotment plot rentals and it was agreed that they should stay the same for the coming financial year, with no increase.

Works for the Parish Steward

The Chairman asked parish councillors to send him details of work that needed to be carried out on the Parish Steward's next visit in March. This month he had been concentrating on filling in potholes.

Defibrillators – update

The Chairman confirmed that all five defibrillators had been paid for. Two needed to be installed and he was waiting for the electrician to let him know when he could do the work.

Trowbridge Town Council – Road Sweeper Scheme

The Clerk had asked Carl Maddox at Trowbridge Town Council to let her know roughly how long it would take the sweeper to sweep all the streets in the parish, and he had said four days. So, at £350 a day to hire it, each time the sweeper was in the parish the cost would be £1,400. After a discussion, it was agreed that it should be hired three times a year, and the Clerk was asked to find out when it was next available.

Trowbridge Town Council – Speed Indicator Devices

The Clerk had contacted Lance Allan to ask what the additional cost might be if any parish wanted the SID moved during the month so that it spent a fortnight in each of two locations. He had replied to say that he would need to reassess the cost once he had agreements from the other parishes. He had added that the product description confirmed that it had both numbers and emoticons. The Clerk was asked to confirm the Parish Council's interest, and the Chairman said that the Town Council had approached the Area Board for a grant to cover the capital cost, with the costs of installation, moving, charging etc. to be covered by the parishes and the Town Council.

Request to support doubling Tree Cover in the Parish

Discussion took place on a request received from Julie Booth to encourage the Parish Council to look for places in the village where more trees could be planted. She had sent a letter with some suggestions, copies of which had been forwarded to all parish councillors. A discussion took place and it was agreed that there could be enough space in the top left-hand corner of the Village Hall playing field for some semi-mature trees to be planted. This would need the permission of the Village Hall committee and the Clerk was asked to contact the Secretary, Sonja Kotevska. It was also agreed that it would be helpful if a couple of parish councillors could find time to look at other possible sites, and Cllrs. Smokcum and Swift kindly volunteered. The Clerk was asked to contact Ms. Booth to tell her what had been discussed and to ask her if she would like to join the two PC volunteers.

Doric Developments – Street naming for the Grange development

A letter had been received from Doric Developments asking for suggestions from the Parish Council for a street name for its development at The Grange. After discussion, it was agreed that Cedar Tree Close would be appropriate. The letter had also enclosed an authorisation form and the Clerk said she would complete this and send it back to the developer, who would then forward it to Wiltshire Council.

New Road Signs to be funded by the Parish Council – A361, Helpswell Road

The Chairman said that Wiltshire Council had now agreed that advanced warning signs could be installed at the junction. These would be illuminated and would be on a yellow backing board, to make them more conspicuous. The cost of these advanced warning signs on both approaches would be £400, and this would need to be paid for by the Parish Council. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should cover the cost (Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Uncles, all in favour). The Clerk said she would get back to Kirsty Rose.

Highways Improvement Request re. Speeding along Marsh Road

A request had been received from a resident of Marsh Road for the Parish Council to support his wish for action to be taken to stop speeding along Marsh Road, particularly between the garage and Horse Road. He had completed a Wiltshire Council 'Highways Improvement Request' form and he hoped the Parish Council would agree with his comments. After a discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should write back to the resident to say that whilst the Parish Council had sympathy with his concerns, it did not feel able to support the suggestions on his request form. It was, however, looking at ways to reduce the volume of traffic still using the village. One of those initiatives was the possible closing of Devizes Road at the Stourton Park roundabout on the western side, which had been the preferred option following a PC survey of the local residents. Another initiative the Parish Council was looking at with Wiltshire Council was the possible re-modelling of the junction at the King's Arms.

Wiltshire Housing Site Allocation Plan – Receipt of Inspector's Report

The Chairman said that the Inspector had made a few modifications in his report, and the Housing Site Allocation Plan should now be adopted by Wiltshire Council on the 25th February. In Hilperton's Neighbourhood Plan, policies were set down to mitigate the effects of housing on the Trowbridge side of Elizabeth Way by stating that houses should be set well back from the road and screening introduced so they would not be visible on the Hilperton side.

CATG Meeting on the 17th January re. Noise and Pollution along Elizabeth Way

Following the meeting on the 17th January, Kirsty Rose had written to Chris Manns, Highways Engineer at Wiltshire Council, whose response the Clerk read out. The reason given for changing the road surface material, he said, was as a result of 'the improvement in surfacing technology during the period between the granting of planning permission (2006) and the start of construction (2014/15). After a discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should go back to Kirsty Rose to ask her to inform Mr. Manns that the road surface agreed at the planning stage was changed by Wiltshire Council purely as a cost measure, because the original road surface agreed upon by West Wiltshire District Council might need to be changed every few years. Both Wiltshire Councillors Clark and Oldrieve, and WC officer Alan Creedy knew this was the reason for the change. It should also be pointed out that the road needed more sound-proofing on the Hilperton side as this was the direction the wind blew across the road.

Childrens' Play Area at Stourton Park

Cllr. Smokcum had taken some pictures of the play area, copies of which were circulated. These showed gaps in the perimeter fencing, and the lack of a proper gate into the playground. There were also some wooden uprights inside which, presumably, used to support a balance bar, which had since broken. The Chairman explained that unless parish and town councils agreed to adopt play areas

currently owned by Wiltshire Council - which would cost a huge amount of money - there was very little that could be done. However, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Wiltshire Council to ask what it would cost to bring the play area back to a suitable condition. When that was known, the Parish Council could make a decision about paying for the repairs. But it would not take on the ownership and Wiltshire Council would remain the landlord.

Ashton Road ‘Top’ Closure Barrier

Cllr. Smokcum had taken some pictures of the barriers which were in place to slow down cyclists. However, this was not working, as many of them sped through the gap in between. It was agreed that a further barrier positioned in the middle of the track close to the other two would be useful, as cyclists would need to slow down to get around it. The Clerk was asked to contact WC to find out what the cost of another barrier would be and this could be discussed again at the March meeting.

Millards Close Play Area – new quote for a gate

The Chairman said that he still had not heard back from Id Verde with a quote, but he would continue to chase them up.

Addition to Hilperton Signs – a Domesday Village

The Chairman said he was still making enquiries about the cost and design of new plaques, and wanted to assure councillors that this had not been forgotten.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

19/11882/VAR: Land at The Grange

Variation to condition 2 (approved plans) on 18/00985/FUL to allow for amended materials palette, removal of chimneys to plots 1-6; amended window opening positions and the addition of single bay oak-framed carport to plots 7 and 12-20

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

- a) The chimney pots were added to the original plans after discussion between the developer, the Parish Council and also, it was believed, the Trowbridge Civic Society. It was felt they would be more appropriate in this development and should not be removed.
- b) Single-bay car ports: The pots mentioned in the amendment did not appear to tally with the plans provided. In any event, it was believed that they would encroach onto the 6/8 metre wildlife corridor and dominate the skyline. If, however, the addition of car ports was approved, the Parish Council would wish to see permitted development rights removed to prevent the garages from being converted to habitable rooms.

It should also be added that it appeared that work had already started on removing the hedges. If this was the case and was not agreed under the original application, the Parish Council would expect the planning authority to take urgent enforcement action.

(Proposed by Cllr. Smokcum, seconded by Cllr. Uncles, eight in favour with two abstentions from Cllrs. Clark and Turner).

20/00559/FUL: 2 Foxglove Drive

Single storey side extension to existing three-bedroomed property

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

20/00657/TCA: 231 Church Street

Works to trees in a conservation area – Fell 1 Hawthorn, 1 Lilac and 5 Plum trees

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9.07pm to enable the applicant, Cllr. Boreham, to speak in favour of this application. He then left the room and the meeting was reconvened at 9.10pm.

After a short discussion, it was agreed that this application should be supported, on condition that the trees to be felled were replaced with others in the next growing season.

Cllr. Boreham returned to the meeting

20/00743/FUL: New Barn Farm, Whaddon Lane – creation of a new track
 Due to the ongoing technical problems experienced with Wiltshire Council’s planning portal, and the inability of parish councillors to be able to access the plans on their laptops, it was agreed that the case officer should be informed that the application would now be considered at the March PC meeting.

Decisions

19/08294/FUL: Land adjoining 27 Greenhill Gardens
 Erection of two-storey, three-bedroomed detached house, parking and associated works – approval given.

19/10141/FUL: 57 Newleaze
 Erection of a two-storey and single storey extension – approval given.

19/11565/TCA: The Manor House, Hill Street
 Works to trees in a conservation area – no objection.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Letter of thanks from Carer Support, Wiltshire, for the grant given to them
- b) Letter of thanks from one of the Coal Charity recipients.

11. PUBLICATIONS

- a) Clerks and Councils Direct – January, 2020
- b) Local Council Review – Winter, 2020
- c) WALC Newsletter –February, 2020

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised since the December, 2019, meeting

C. S. Joinery – wood for the Village Hall benches		£498.00
M. B. Packer – labour and nuts and bolts for the Village Hall benches		£161.80
Hilperton Village Hall Club – post December meeting refreshments (Chairman’s Allowance)		£78.60
Clerk’s Salary for January, 2020	£512.00)	
Clerk’s Expenses	£207.49)	£719.49
Id Verde – planting/maintenance of planters, December, 2019 (including £20.27 VAT)		£121.60
Id Verde –extra grass cutting, December, 2019 (including £36.75 VAT)		£220.48
Id Verde – extra grass cutting, January, 2020 (including £36.75 VAT)		£220.48
Id Verde – planting/maintenance of planters, January, 2020 (including £20.27 VAT)		£121.60

Payments authorised this meeting

Clerk’s Salary for February, 2020	£512.00)	
Clerk’s Expenses	£103.70)	£615.70

*(Proposed by Cllr. Uncles, seconded by Cllr. Boreham, nine in favour
 With one abstention by the Chairman)*

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were none.

14. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS

Pre-meet notes had been sent to Michael Gamble.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 17th March, 2020

The meeting closed at 9.27pm.

Signed Date