

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,  
at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2020**

There were two members of the public present.

<b>PRESENT</b>	Cllr. E. Clark	Cllr. S. Uncles
	Cllr. R. House	Cllr. D. Swift
	Cllr. C. Prevett	Cllr. P. Fisher
	Cllr. D. Smokcum	Cllr. T. Carbin

*Before the start of the meeting, Mr. Weaver of Maxcroft House, Maxcroft Lane, spoke in favour of planning application 20/06770/FUL. The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.40 p.m.*

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Hayes, Turner, Sawyer, Boreham and Tucker, under the resolution approved at the August, 2020, PC meeting.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were none.

### **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2020, were approved and signed.

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

Minute 8 – Wiltshire Council's Salt Bin Audit: The Clerk had contacted Wiltshire Council and had been informed that their records indicated that there were no bins in the parish.

### **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chairman said he had received a communication the previous day from the planning agents acting on behalf of the owners of Church Farm. They would welcome an opportunity to present the final draft plans to the Parish Council prior to any formal submission of a planning application in October. The Chairman had replied to let them know that the Parish Council would be holding an 'actual' meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> September, and as Church Farm was not on the agenda it would not be proper to allow a presentation. He informed them of the date scheduled for the October meeting. He also said that he presumed that the Hilpertons Neighbourhood Development Plan would be fully complied with by the planned development and asked if there was any planned financial contribution for improvement/enhancement to Hilpertons Village Hall, as the new residents would use the facility. He had not yet heard back from the agents.

The Chairman had also received a letter from the owners of the parcel of land behind 3 Ashton Rise. They said the land was for sale and wondered if Hilpertons Parish Council might be interested in acquiring the plot before it went to auction in a few weeks' time. Most parish councillors remembered when this plot was bought a few years ago, with the new owners hopeful of getting planning permission for its development, but this had not been the case to date.

### **6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR**

Cllr. Clark had asked Wiltshire Council for more details about a proposed cycle track from Hilpertons to Melksham via Semington, but he had not yet heard back from anyone.

### **7. POLICE**

Following the last meeting, the Clerk had e-mailed PCSO Matthew Till to say that those parish councillors who were co-opted a year ago had not seen a police officer at any meetings they had

attended (obviously there were none during lock-down). As he was now saying that parishes would not receive any more monthly reports on crimes in their areas, the Parish Council would like him to make an effort to get to a few PC meetings in person in the future to give a verbal report and reassure parish councillors that there was a police presence in the village.

He had responded by saying that he would try his best to attend meetings when he was able, but in the meantime people could contact him by e-mail at: Matthew.Till@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

## **8.ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION**

### **Allotment Matters/Community Orchard**

Cllr. House said that there was a long list of people wanting allotment plots. Due to the fact that all the plots were occupied and paid for up to the end of March, 2021, there might be a very long wait for some of them, especially if they lived outside the parish.

### **Works for the Parish Steward**

Both Cllrs. Fisher and House gave details of jobs which the Parish Steward could tackle on his next visit.

### **Defibrillators – update**

The Chairman said he would get in touch with the manager of Marsh Stores to see if he would still be happy to have a defibrillator on the premises, now that the electrician was back to work.

### **Village Green Application**

The Chairman said the hearing would take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September. This would be a ‘virtual’ hearing which members of the public could log into. He said that - regarding the legal fees - the solicitor would be acting ‘pro bono’, and the barrister had quoted a sum of £2,750 plus reasonable expenses. Given the fact that he would not have to travel or stay overnight anywhere, these were not expected to amount to too much.

The Chairman suggested that it would be an idea to put the Village Green expenses paid for by the Parish Council under a separate heading, when preparing the next set of accounts, so these costs could be clearly shown, and this was agreed. In conclusion, he said that no response had been received from the owners regarding the second informal ‘offer’ made by the Parish Council to purchase the land in question.

### **Freedom of Information Request**

The Chairman said that this related to the Village Green, and the FOI request had been complied with by the Parish Council.

### **The Future of Neighbourhood Plans: Western Area Localism and Planning Alliance (WALPA)**

Cllr. Swift had recently attended a ‘virtual’ meeting of the group, at which members of various town and parish councils expressed their concerns about central government’s use of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to circumvent democratically agreed Neighbourhood Development Plans, especially if they were more than two years old. He said that James Gray MP supported WALPA but Michelle Donelan MP appeared to be more in favour of the NPPF.

It appeared that Wiltshire Council could use a ‘whole of Wiltshire’ approach to allocate housing, so if one parish or town had no spare capacity, housing elsewhere could be allocated to make up the shortfall. In this respect, WALPA could become a body for voicing concerns for any parish or town councils that came under threat.

After a short discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman should contact the planning consultant who helped with the Hilperton NDP and discuss what steps might be taken by the Parish Council, in view of the fact that the Plan would be two years' old in November.

Cllr. Swift was thanked for attending the WALPA meeting, and he said the next one would be on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, at 10.30 am.

### **Marsh Road Speeding**

The Chairman said that a Highways Improvement Request had been made by a resident of Marsh Road, who was concerned about speeding. The form had a section asking what the resident would like done to resolve the issue, and she had said that speed bumps would be helpful, and the road made into permit holders' parking. A discussion followed, with members agreeing that speed bumps would not be allowed as buses travelled along this road. Also, it was considered that parking permits would not work either as residents would have to pay for permits, which they would be reluctant to do.

It was agreed that the clerk should contact the resident to say that the Parish Council, although very aware of the issues along Marsh Road, was unable to support her request, but she should be informed about the steps the Parish Council was taking in an effort to get permanent Speed Indicator Devices installed.

### **COVID19 – Preparation of a Report on Achievements to date**

In the absence of Cllr. Boreham, it was agreed that this should be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Wiltshire Council – Community Governance Review**

The Chairman said that, at a recent 'virtual' meeting of Wiltshire Council, it was agreed that parts of North Bradley should be transferred into the Trowbridge area.

## **9. PLANNING MATTERS**

### **Applications**

20/06770/FUL: Maxcroft House, 3 Maxcroft Lane

Alterations to the current site boundary. Erection of a new two-storey dwelling. Demolition of the existing small greenhouse on site. Removal of 5 site trees and alterations to the garden. New private lane leading from Maxcroft Lane to the house. Erection of a new gate between Maxcroft Lane and the new private lane. Erection of a new garage for the new house. Creation of a new parking space for Maxcroft House.

A discussion took place on the points raised by the applicant before the start of the meeting, at the end of which it was agreed that the application should be supported. (Proposed by Cllr. House, seconded by Cllr. Uncles, five in favour with three abstentions from the Chairman, Cllr. Carbin and Cllr. Fisher).

It was further agreed that, should the case officer be minded to refuse the application, the local Wiltshire Councillor should be requested to call it in for determination by the area planning committee, as the Parish Council was concerned about possible irregularities with where the development boundary for Hilperton was shown for this site.

20/06488/FUL: Oak Tree House, 202a Devizes Road

Change of use of floorspace and associated parking from office/studio to allow the continued use for residential purposed in conjunction with the attached dwelling (retrospective)

It was agreed that a 'no comment' response should be given.

20/06946/FUL: 193 Devizes Road

Side carport, rear two storey and one storey extensions

It was agreed that a 'no comment' response should be given.

20/07297/TCA: 114a Trowbridge Road

Golden Leylandii tree – 15% reduction

It was agreed that no objection would be made as long as the planning officer concerned agreed with the proposals.

### Decisions

20/05160/FUL: Cockhatch, 124a Ashton Road

Proposed alterations and extensions – approval given

20/05590/TCA: 258 Hill Street

T1 Holly tree – crown reduce by 1m to suitable growth points to clear roof, gutter and utility wires, shape and balance crown – no objection

20/05777/TCA: 255 Hill Street

Removal of Acer tree growing by boundary wall – no objection

20/06313/TCA: 126 Devizes Road

Fell two pine trees – no objection

### Planning Appeal Decision – Whaddon Grove Farm

Appeal by Mr. M. Tucker of Home Farm, Whaddon Lane, against an enforcement notice issued by Wiltshire Council on the 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2020. Appeal dismissed, the enforcement notice upheld and planning permission refused.

### 10. CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

### 11. PUBLICATIONS

a) WALC Newsletter – September, 2020

b) Clerks and Councils Direct – September, 2020

### 12. ACCOUNTS

#### Payments authorised since the last meeting:

Mrs M. E. Timms – purchase of maps for the Village Green group	£58.80
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Id Verde – planters and maintenance for August (including £10.13 VAT)	£60.79
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Heidi Hart – Village Green application survey	£99.00
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#### Payments authorised this meeting:

Clerk's Salary for September, 2020	£520.00)	
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Clerk's Expenses	£239.05)	£759.05
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### 13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Cllr. Prett said that speeding had increased in the area recently, especially by van drivers, and members of the public were concerned that someone could get hurt as a result. He said that an Irish man was calling on houses in the St. Mary's Gardens area telling owners that they had roofing issues. Incidences of drug taking had also increased over the last few months. The Clerk said she would inform PCSO Till.

### 14. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS

The deadline date for the online October issue had not yet been received.

### 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that –circumstances permitting – the next meeting should be held on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> October.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed ..... Date .....