

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD VIA ZOOM at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 16th March, 2021**

There were three members of the public present.

PRESENT	Cllr. E. Clark	Cllr. S. Uncles
	Cllr. R. House	Cllr. D. Swift
	Cllr. T. Carbin	Cllr. S. Sawyer
	Cllr. P. Turner	Cllr. C. Prevett
	Cllr. K. Hayes	Cllr. D. Smokcum

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Fisher and Tucker, under the resolution approved at the March/August, 2020, PC meetings, and Cllr. Boreham.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 16th February, 2021, and the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on the 4th March, 2021, were approved.

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

Minute 8 – Grants: The Clerk had sent HELP their grant cheque, which had been gratefully acknowledged by them. She had given the grant cheque for the Village Hall to Cllr. Turner and had received a ‘thank you’ from Tim Davies.

Minute 14 – Parish News: The Clerk had e-mailed Mary Tapping on the 18th February to ask her what the current position was concerning the relaunch, but had received no response.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman said that – all being well – the Village Hall would be open to the public by the date of the April meeting.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

As predicted, Cllr. Clark said that at the Wiltshire Council precept meeting in February, an increase of 4.99% was agreed (3% for social care, split over two years, and 1.99% increase in council tax).

7. POLICE

It was agreed that it might be helpful for PCSO Matthew Till's e-mail address to be shown on the PC notice boards.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Wiltshire Council Local Plan

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council's response, objecting strongly to the draft Local Plan, had been sent to Wiltshire Council. In view of Wiltshire Council's proposals, and in the event of its not changing its stance, he suggested that after the May elections the new Parish Council might think about spending some money on a planning barrister.

Allotment Matters/Community Orchard

Cllr. House said that no-one had come forward wishing to give up their plot, and the Clerk confirmed that she had sent invoices out to tenants. Cllr. Carbin remarked on how good the orchard area looked now that flowers were beginning to come through.

Works for the Parish Steward

The Chairman asked parish councillors to let him know by the end of the week if there were any jobs that needed to be done. In response to a suggestion that The Knapp should be swept, he said he would contact Pat Whyte.

COVID19 Report update

In the absence of Cllr. Boreham, Cllr. Turner said that the numbers of residents needing assistance had dropped off significantly, with just a few people needing help with prescriptions.

WALPA (Wiltshire Area Localism and Planning Alliance)

The Chairman said that the group was unable to achieve anything in the run-up to the local elections, and no further meetings had been planned as yet.

Local Elections - 6th May, 2021

The Chairman said that the timetable was now on the PC notice boards, and any member who was unable to print off election packs should contact him for help. Nomination papers must be with Wiltshire Council at County Hall by 4pm on the 8th April.

Approval of the Budget for 2021/2022

Draft copies had been sent to members, and the Chairman drew their attention to the 'Accrued CIL funds' and 'Accrued Solar Farm funds'. In future, some Section 137 grants given by the Parish Council could come from either one of these income sources. After a short discussion, the budget for 2021/22 was unanimously approved.

Annual Parish Assembly 2021

It had been suggested in 2019 that in future the Annual Parish Assembly and the Annual Parish Council meeting might be held on the same evening. There had, of course, been no Parish Assembly in 2020. The Clerk had contacted Tim Davies to see if the Village Hall was free on the 18th May, and she confirmed that it was available and could be open at 6.30 p.m. for a 7 p.m. start to the Parish Assembly, followed immediately by the Annual PC meeting.

Grant Requests:

Hilperton C. of E. Primary School (£3,000 requested towards the replacement of the all-weather sports pitch)

(The Chairman adjourned the meeting so that Amanda Oatley could speak in favour of the grant application from the school. The meeting was reconvened after three minutes).

The Chairman informed members that the Trowbridge Area Board had approved a grant of £3,000 towards the new pitch, as long as this was match-funded by the Parish Council. After a discussion, it was agreed that a Section 137 grant of £3,000 (from CIL funds) should be made to the school towards the provision of a new all-weather sports pitch (proposed by Cllr. Sawyer, seconded by Cllr. House, all in favour).

St. Michael's Church (£655 requested for repairs to the clock)

The Canalside Benefice had received quotes from a clock repairer in respect of works needed a) to get the clock working again and b) to get the hands on the two clock faces to synchronise, at a total cost of £655. It was agreed that a Section 137 grant of £655 (from solar farm funds) should be made (proposed by Cllr. House, seconded by Cllr. Uncles, all in favour).

Wiltshire Search and Rescue (sum not specified)

The Clerk said that £250 had been given to Wiltshire Search and Rescue in September, 2019, and it was agreed that a Section 137 grant of £300 should be made (proposed by Cllr. House, seconded by Cllr. Sawyer, all in favour).

Highways Improvement Request – Whaddon Lane

A request to reduce the speed limit to 30mph for the entire length of Whaddon Lane had been received from a local resident. After a short discussion, it was agreed to endorse the request and send it on to Wiltshire Council with the Parish Council's support.

Formal Letter of Engagement between the Parish Council and R. A. Book Keeping

Ros Huggins had written to say that she and her business partner had been going their paperwork and realised that there had never been a formal letter of engagement between them and the Parish Council. To be AML (anti money-laundering) compliant, this should now be put in place, and she had sent a formal letter of engagement which she had asked the Parish Council to sign. It was agreed that this should be signed by the Chairman and sent back to her.

C.P.R.E Best Kept Village Competition

Details of the 2021 competition had been sent to the Clerk, and it was agreed that the Parish Council should send an entry in the large village category.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

There were none.

Decisions

20/107317/FUL: 13 Marshmead

Two-storey side extension – approval given

10. CORRESPONDENCE

None received.

11. PUBLICATIONS

a) Clerks and Councils Direct – March, 2021

b) WALC Newsletter – March, 2021

c) Local Council Review – Issue 1. 2021

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised since the last meeting:

E. Clark, Chairman's Allowance – payment for Zoom meetings	£143.88
HELP Counselling Services – Section 137 grant	£600.00
Hilperton Village Hall – Section 19 grant	£665.00
Id Verde – planters and maintenance for February, 2021 (including £20.26 VAT)	£121.59
Trowbridge Town Council – use of SID for Marsh Road	£305.00

Payments authorised this meeting:

Clerk's Salary for March, 2021	£520.00)	
Clerk's Expenses	£160.70)	£680.70

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were none.

14. ITEMS FOR PARISH NEWS

As there had been no re-launch, nothing could be sent this month.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 20th April, 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed Date