

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE
VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE,
at 7.45 p.m. on Tuesday, 16th November, 2021**

There were four members of the public present.

PRESENT	Cllr. E. Clark (Chairman)	Cllr. R. House
	Cllr. P. Turner	Cllr. T. Carbin
	Cllr. S. Uncles	Cllr. S. Sawyer
	Cllr. D. Smokcum	Cllr. R. Allan
	Cllr. D. Swift	

Before the meeting commenced, Hannah Cameron, Chairperson of St. Michael's Pre-School, talked about their application for a grant towards the cost of replacement doors to the main storage area of the building, and explained why the work had already been carried out. The Chairman declared the meeting open. At 7.50 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Fisher, Hayes, Boreham and Prevett, (Cllr. Hayes' apologies given – and accepted - due to ongoing Covid concerns)

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

St. Michael's Pre-School grant application: Cllr. Turner, as Treasurer.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 19th October, 2021, and the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 2nd November, 2021, were approved and signed.

4. CLERK'S REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM THE OCTOBER PC MEETING

Minute 8 – Grant request from Hilperton United Football Club: The Clerk had contacted Brad Taylor-King, who had expressed his delight at the Parish Council's decision to pay in full for the lights. He said an invoice would be sent from the contractor shortly.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman gave details of the Remembrance Sunday ceremony. He had laid a wreath, on behalf of the Parish Council, at the War Memorial, and two more were at the war graves in the cemetery. The Clerk was asked to thank Chris Braham and the Cubs for all they did to sweep up around the Knapp and War Memorial, erect poppies etc., and arrangements for 2022 should be discussed at the December PC meeting.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Following an e-mail sent by Cllr. Clark to PC members concerning Wiltshire Council's new cycle scheme (Hilperton to Melksham), members agreed that the cost (£600,000) would be a total waste of money. The lack of proper public consultation, and the apparent refusal of Wiltshire Council to take into account the Parish Council's opinion was considered unacceptable, and it was agreed that this matter should be discussed at the December PC meeting.

7. POLICE

PCSO Matthew Till was unable to attend the meeting.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Wiltshire Council Local Plan: Report on progress to date, including Bat Survey and Campaign Strategy

Dr. Celia Beckett gave an update on progress and also said that bat data from the Lightwood Group would be supplied to Wiltshire Council in due course. A local bat expert had been carrying out a survey over the last few months and had established activity around the Marsh Farm and Devizes Road areas, indicating that this was a migratory area for bats.

Responses to the public consultation of the Local Plan indicated that 92% of local people were totally opposed, 3% in favour (developers and land owners?) and 5% supportive but raising various objections. Dr. Beckett had prepared a statement regarding the Hilperton NDP, copies of which she tabled. It was agreed that members should take their copies home, look through the document and then get in touch with Dr. Beckett through the Chairman with their comments by the end of the week, in time for a meeting of WC cabinet on the 30th November.

Discussion took place on a future campaign strategy, with the possibility of the Parish Council preparing a 'one-off' Newsletter for distribution around the parish, getting the local press involved and trying - again - to get the CPRE on board. The Chairman thanked Dr. Beckett and the working group for their efforts to date.

Allotment Matters/Community Orchard

Cllr. House had nothing to report.

Works for the Parish Steward in December

The Chairman said that no date had yet been given for the Parish Steward's December visit, but asked members to contact him by the end of the following week with a list of jobs that needed to be done.

Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, 2022

Cllr. Turner had received quotes for new play equipment from Sutcliff Play South West and she was now awaiting a quote from Playdale, who supplied the original play equipment. She suggested these could then be looked at in December.

It was agreed that commemorative mugs should not be ordered until early 2022.

Speed Indicator Devices - update

The Chairman had contacted Lance Allan at Trowbridge Town Council, and he said he would see if anyone on the council wished to purchase two or three more SIDS via the Area Board. Mr. Allan admitted things had gone a little quiet recently but would get back to the Chairman shortly.

Road Sweeper Scheme

The Chairman said that driver recruiting was still taking place at TTC, but at least it was known that the Parish Council was keen to get the scheme up and running.

Hilperton Play Areas: Foxglove Close, Lacock Gardens, Millards Close and Stourton Park – report on a meeting between the Chairman, WC and IdVerde

The Chairman was still awaiting quotes from IdVerde in respect of possible new play equipment, and he said he would chase them up.

Defibrillator for Marsh Stores

The Chairman said he would contact the manger shortly.

Westbury Town Council – update on Fighting Fund re. proposed Incinerator

Following the October PC meeting, the Clerk had written to Westbury Town Council to say that the Parish Council was very sympathetic to their plight but needed more specific information. She invited them to contact the Parish Council again once they had a better idea of what the costs might be and Westbury Town Council had thanked the Parish Council for this. In the meantime, the Chairman had learned that the town council had put by £100,000 for their ‘fighting fund’. It was agreed that the Clerk should get back to them to let them know the date of Hilperton’s December meeting.

December, 2021, Parish Council meeting

The Chairman said that the Village Hall was available on Monday, 20th December, and it was agreed that the PC meeting should be held on this date, when the Clerk would be able to attend. The Chairman invited members to join him for pre-Christmas drinks in the bar, following the meeting.

Parish Magazine – Possible assistance towards funding

Rev. John Rees, Rector of Hilperton, Staverton and Semington parishes, said a few words about funding issues in the past, and the difficulty of getting people to give their time to edit the magazine, and volunteers to distribute copies. He wondered if the Parish Council would be willing to consider some funding for at least the editing part in order to get a relaunch underway. A discussion followed and it was agreed that £500 should be put by to get a new magazine up and running. As far as advertising for an editor etc. was concerned, Cllr. Turner volunteered to have a word with Tim Davies, Chairman of the Village Hall committee, to see if he could produce a poster, which could indicate that a remuneration package would be available. This could go on notice boards, on the PC website, the Village Hall Facebook pages and anywhere else people suggested. Discussion also took place on how often the magazine should be produced (i.e. monthly or quarterly), whether there should be a charge, and if the magazine should cover the parish of Hilperton only.

Grant Request: St. Michael’s Pre-School – request for a contribution towards replacement doors to the main storage area

The Chairman reminded members that the work had already been carried out by a contractor, making this a retrospective grant application. There was no objection to this and it was agreed that a Section 137 grant of 50% of the total cost should be given (i.e. £994.00). (Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Uncles, eight in favour with one abstention from Cllr. Turner).

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

There were none.

Decisions

PL/2021/07640 - 15 King’s Gardens

Erection of a single storey rear extension, rear dormer and front porch. Loft conversion and reduction in the garage length – approval given

PL/2021/09443 – Church Farm, Church Street

Works to trees in a conservation area – no objection

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing received.

11. PUBLICATIONS

- a) CPRE – Wiltshire Voice, Autumn, 2021
- b) Bulletin – the War Memorials Trust magazine, November, 2021
- c) Clerks and Councils Direct – November, 2021
- d) WALC Newsletter – November, 2021

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

IdVerde – Planters and maintenance for October, 2021 (including £20.26 VAT)	£121.59
Water2Business – allotment supply 5/10/21 to 1/11/21	£33.25
The Royal British Legion - three Remembrance Day wreaths	£75.00

Payments authorised this meeting:-

Clerk's Salary for November, 2021	£520.00)	
Clerk's Expenses (including office rental)	£749.40)	£1,269.40

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Replacement trees for those felled in the village.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday, 20th December, 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

15. MATTERS OF A POSSIBLE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE

Sir William Roger Brown's (Coal) Charity

The Clerk gave details of last year's two recipients, each of whom had received £20. The Chairman put forward two new names and it was unanimously agreed that all four 2021 recipients should receive £25 each, the bulk of the money to come from the charity and a 'top-up' from the Chairman's allowance.

The meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.

Signed

Date