

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE
VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE,
at 7.30 p.m. on Monday, 20th December, 2021**

There were five members of the public present.

PRESENT	Cllr. E. Clark (Chairman)	Cllr. R. House
	Cllr. T. Carbin	Cllr. S. Sawyer
	Cllr. R. Allan	Cllr. G. Boreham
	Cllr. C. Prevett	

Before the meeting commenced, three residents spoke against planning application PL/2021/06752 (6 Marshmead). The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.37 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received – and accepted -from Cllrs. Fisher, Hayes, Turner, Uncles, Smokcum and Swift, due to ongoing Covid concerns.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 16th November, 2021, and the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 14th December, 2021, were approved and signed.

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

Minute 8 – Grant request from St. Michael's Pre-school: The grant cheque had been sent and gratefully acknowledged.

Minute 14 – Sir William Roger Brown's (Coal) Charity: Christmas cards and donations had been sent to the four recipients and messages of thanks received.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman wished all parish councillors a merry Christmas and said that the lounge bar would be open after the meeting, if anyone would like to join him for a festive drink.

He also said that Cllr. Swift had resigned his membership of the planning committee, and another parish councillor would be needed to take his place. Cllr. Smokcum had indicated his willingness to join the committee, and Cllr. Allan also said he was happy to become a member.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Clark had nothing to report.

7. POLICE

PCSO Matthew Till was unable to attend the meeting and had given his apologies.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Wiltshire Council Local Plan: Report on progress

Dr. Celia Beckett was not in attendance, but the Chairman said that she was trying to find out more about the bat situation.

Allotment Matters/Community Orchard

There was nothing to report.

Works for the Parish Steward

The Chairman said that no dates had yet been given for the Parish Steward's future visits, but members should contact him anyway if they knew of jobs that needed to be done.

Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, 2022

As Cllr. Turner was not present, it was agreed that matters regarding play equipment should be discussed at the January, 2022, meeting.

Hilperton Play Areas: Foxglove Close, Lacock Gardens, Millards Close and Stourton Park

The Chairman said that IdVerde would be undertaking any necessary work, which would be paid for by Wiltshire Council, and a start had been made at Stourton Park.

The Giffords Defibrillator

The Chairman said that the South West Ambulance Service would be giving training shortly.

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

The Chairman had learned that Chippenham Town Council had recently contributed £1,000 to the 'fighting fund'. Nothing had been heard from Westbury Town Council since their e-mail in October, thanking the Parish Council for inviting them to contact Hilperton once they had an idea of what the costs would be.

Parish Magazine – update

It was agreed that discussion of this should be left until the January, 2022, meeting.

Remembrance Sunday – arrangements for 2022

After a short discussion, it was agreed that arrangements for 2022 should be left to the organisations that usually took these on board. The Chairman said that the Village Hall had been booked again for 2022, and the Clerk confirmed that thanks had been given to Chris and George Braham for the efforts made this year by the Scouts and Cubs.

Wiltshire Council's Cycle Scheme to and from Melksham

The Chairman informed members that this scheme had now been confirmed by Wiltshire Council and, other than writing a letter of complaint, there was nothing that could be done now that a decision had been made. Nevertheless, it was agreed that as a matter of principle a letter should be sent to Wiltshire Council, and that the Chairman and Clerk should come up with appropriate wording to express the feelings of the Parish Council, a draft of which would be sent to all members for approval.

Replacement trees for those felled in the Village

The Chairman informed members that when any tree covered by a TPO was felled, it was normal procedure for Wiltshire Council to make a requirement that it should be replaced with a similar specimen. Discussion took place on the recent decision of the Village Hall to fell a silver birch tree, which had caused some concern, and it was suggested that the Parish Council might step in to help financially with replacing trees like this, which were not covered by TPOs. After a short discussion, it was agreed that replacement trees should be included in the Parish Council budget for 2022/23.

Parish Precept for 2022/23

The Clerk informed members of the amount of the Precept in the next financial year - based on the number of Band D properties - if the levy remained the same. The general opinion was that there should be no increase and it was therefore agreed that, if the Parish Council was unable to hold a meeting in January, 2022, there would be a zero increase in the levy. (Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. House, all in favour).

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

PL/2021/06752: 6 Marshmead

Removal of existing garage/kitchen extension and erection of a three-bedroom end terrace house. It was agreed that the Parish Council should reiterate the comments made in August, when the application was for a three-bedroomed detached house. This proposal would still cause over-development of the site, and the bulk and mass would leave inadequate garden space. Concern should be expressed about the highways impact, the road being too narrow for any extra housing, and emergency services would be unable to gain access. The fact that the proposed property would be built over an existing sewer could also inevitably cause problems. (Proposed by Cllr. Boreham, seconded by Cllr. Sawyer, five in favour with two abstentions, one from the Chairman).

Decisions

PL/2021/04951: 16 Newhurst Park

Demolition of rear conservatory, two storey rear and side extension with internal alterations and landscaping of the rear garden. Existing front boundary to be adapted locally adjacent to the existing dropped kerb to create an additional off-street parking space – approval given.

PL/2021/08931: Land adjacent to The Grange, Ashton Road - Variation of conditions 2, 8 and 9 on 19/11882/VAR to allow amendments to the garden layout at Orchard Cottage – application refused.

PL/2021/09011: 30 Marshmead

The creation of a dropped kerb at the front of the house to allow driveway parking – approval given.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing received.

11. PUBLICATIONS

- a) CPRE – Countryside Voices Winter 2021
- b) WALC Newsletter – December, 2021

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised since the last meeting:

Mrs L. House – plants	£76.93
St. Michael's Pre-School - Section 137 grant	£994.00
IdVerde – Planters and maintenance for November, 2021 (including £20.26 VAT)	£121.59
Galpin Kendrick Electrical Limited – external lighting For the Village Hall (including £285.20 VAT)	£1,711.20
M. E. Timms – to replace cash for the coal charity recipients	£100.00
Water2Business – allotment supply 2/11/21 to 1/12/21	£35.48

Payments authorised this meeting:-

Clerk's Salary for December, 2021	£520.00)	
Clerk's Expenses	£187.55)	£707.55
IdVerde – Planters and maintenance for December, 2021 (including £20.26 VAT)		£121.59
CPRE – Annual membership		£36.00

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee: discussion on whether or not any organisation is willing to organise a street party.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 18th January, 2022.

The meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.

Signed

Date