

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE
VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE,
at 7.45 p.m. on Tuesday, 18th January, 2022**

There was one member of the public present.

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

*Before the meeting commenced, Mr. Mark Newbery spoke about a proposed initiative to plant tree whips around the parish, including on private farm land (with the agreement of the owners).
The Chairman declared the meeting open at 7.55 p.m.*

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received – and accepted - from Cllrs. Fisher and Hayes, due to ongoing Covid concerns. Apologies were also received from Cllr. Allan.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Planning application PL/2021/11942 – Hilperton House, The Knap: Cllrs. Turner, House and Clark, the applicants being known to them. The Chairman said he would not take part or vote at the end of any discussion.

Planning application PL/2021/10979 – 208 Devizes Road: Cllr. House, having given advice to the applicant in the past.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 20th December, 2021, were approved and signed.

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

Minute 8 – Wiltshire Council's Cycle Scheme: The Clerk had sent a letter of objection to Cllr. McClelland, with a copy to MP Michele Donelan. She was now awaiting a reply.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman wished parish councillors a happy New Year. He said that the graffiti on the notice board in Trowbridge Road had now been removed; and there would be a meeting of WALPA on the 27th January. If anyone would like to attend they should contact him for more information.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Clark advised that the grey waste bin collection schedule would most probably be changing from the 28th February, and the WC precept increase was likely to be 1.99%, plus 1% for adult care.

7. POLICE

PCSO Jack Thomas, who was currently taking over some of Matthew Till's duties, had indicated that he hoped to come to the meeting, but he had not yet arrived.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Setting of the Precept for 2022/23

It was agreed that the levy should remain unchanged at £14.28 for the coming year, which would bring in a Precept of £23,395.35. (Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Turner, all in favour). Those who voted were: Cllr. G. Boreham, Cllr. T. Carbin, Cllr. E. Clark, Cllr. R. House, Cllr. C. Prevett, Cllr. S. Sawyer, Cllr. D. Smokcum, Cllr. D. Swift, Cllr. P. Turner and Cllr. S. Uncles.

(Note: The vote was recorded in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (Amendment) (England) regulations 2014 (SUI 165 2014) which came into effect on the 25th February, 2014. Regulation 2 provides that votes at key budget decision meetings by local authorities should be recorded).

Wiltshire Council Local Plan: Report on progress

Dr. Celia Beckett and Cllr. Allan were not present, but Cllr. Sawyer said she had attended a recent meeting in Staverton where a number of people had offered to help in any way they could. A meeting had also been arranged in Hilperton on the 20th January.

Allotment Matters/Community Orchard

Cllr. House said that one allotment tenant had moved house, and the Clerk had sent out a Tenancy Agreement to the new allotment-holder. He added that, annoyingly, someone was consistently sitting in the orchard hut and leaving rubbish behind.

Works for the Parish Steward on his visit on the 10th and 14th February

The Chairman asked members to contact him if they knew of jobs that needed to be done. The Clerk said that the March visit would be on the 10th and 14th, and the April visit on the 7th and 11th.

Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, 2022

- a) **New Play Equipment:** The Clerk had circulated quotes received from two play area equipment providers, and a discussion followed. It soon became apparent that the 'Mammoth Orchard' option provided by Sutcliffe Play seemed appropriate to have installed at the Village Hall play area, as the structure looked sound and would provide fun for older children. The total cost for this would be £23,317. A vote followed and it was agreed that the equipment should be purchased and installed in time for the Jubilee celebrations. (Proposed by Cllr. Boreham, seconded by Cllr. Uncles, all in favour).
- b) **Street Parties:** This was discussed, and it was agreed that any street parties would best be organised by local people in their own areas of the village. Cllr. Turner gave members an idea of what arrangements were being made for a Jubilee Fete on the Saturday, at the end of which it was agreed that the Parish Council would set aside a maximum of £5,000 to assist towards such things as a children's bouncy castle, marquee hire, afternoon teas etc. (Proposed by Cllr. Uncles, seconded by Cllr. House, nine in favour with one abstention).
- c) **Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Mugs**
The Clerk had the up to date number of children attending the primary school and pre-school, so the mugs could now be ordered.

Speed Indicator Devices

The Chairman gave details of the SID which had recently been installed in the village of Steeple Ashton. The idea was that it would be moved from one end of the village to the other, every three months. The Parish Council had paid for the device and was in the process of establishing a team of volunteers to move it, each of whom would undertake training as provided by Wiltshire Council. Westbury Town Council had assisted them with the initial set-up. The Chairman said he would now go back to Wiltshire Council (Highways) in an effort to make progress on this issue.

He also advised that consideration was being given to the installation of automatic speed watch devices, but the Police and Crime Commissioner had not yet given permission for these to be used, and it was felt that the Community Speed Watch initiative was still a good – and fairer -way to deter speeding motorists.

Road Sweeper Scheme

After the recent round of interviews, Trowbridge Town Council had now employed a driver, who was currently undertaking training. The Chairman said that at long last the Parish Council should see some action.

Parish Magazine – update

Cllr. Turner and the Chairman of the Village Hall had designed a draft notice - seeking candidates to take on the role of magazine editor - which could be put on notice boards, the PC website, the Village Hall facebook page etc. Some alterations were suggested and it was agreed that Cllr. Turner and Tim Davies should re-draft the notice and the final version could be agreed by the Parish Council. A few months ago someone had e-mailed to express an interest, and the Clerk said she would contact her shortly. Cllr. Carbin wondered if he could be sent an electronic copy of the notice.

Removal of Trees on the Hills Site, Devizes Road

Cllr. Smokcum gave details of trees which had recently been felled by maintenance people, acting on behalf Hills developers, both on their own land and also one on Wiltshire Council-owned land. Local residents had been informed that the trees were diseased, but they appeared healthy enough and they felt that they should not have been cut down. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should liaise on the wording of a letter which would go to Wiltshire Council's enforcement team and the developers. The Chairman advised, however, that nothing could be done about the trees on Hills' own land, because none of them were covered by a TPO.

Car Parking close to the Canal Bridge at Whaddon Lane

Cllr. Allan had asked for this to be included on the January agenda as he believed there was a real hazard from cars double-parking too close to the bridge. As he was not present at the meeting, it was agreed that this matter should be deferred until February.

Suggestion to plant Tree Whips at various locations in the Village

Members discussed the presentation by Mark Newbery earlier in the evening, and it was agreed that the Chairman should go back to him to thank him for coming along and to tell him that there was wide-spread support for the idea. However, no PC member had the capacity/expertise to take this forward. He would ask Mr. Newbery if he knew of any people who might be willing/able to volunteer. They would be classed as operating as a 'working group' of the PC and therefore have the official support of the corporate body and ability to write/e-mail under its banner.

Public Rights of Way (HILP18, 20, 48 and 50)

Various problems with the footpaths (above) had been reported to the Parish Council, and the Chairman had then been in touch with the resident who had made the report to suggest that he contact Paul Maynard at Wiltshire Council directly about work that needed to be done.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

PL/2021/10779: 208 Devizes Road

Conversion into two dwellings with associated works

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

PL/2021/11457: 301 Marsh Road

Proposed extension and reconfiguration of existing outbuilding to form self-contained annex with ancillary utility

It was agreed that no objection should be made to the proposed extension provided that the property as a whole would be occupied as one dwelling unit, with the accommodation occupied as part of, or an extension to, the main dwelling, and it should not be let or sold as separate accommodation.

PL/2021/11942: Hilperton House, The Knap

Works to trees in a conservation area – Maple (T1) 25% reduction by thinning to allow more light and space.

It was agreed that no objection should be made to the tree work, as long it met with the approval of the case officer concerned.

PL/2022/00081: 61 Marsh Road – proposed single storey rear extension

It was agreed that a ‘no comment’ response should be made.

PL/2022/00222: The Old Rectory, Church Street

Works to trees in a conservation area – Felling of three Yew trees (T1, T2 and T3).

It was agreed that the case officer should be informed that the Parish Council was not comfortable with the proposal. If, however, there was a valid reason for the yews being taken down, a request should be made for a condition to be imposed, ensuring that the trees were replaced.

PL/2022/00220: 172 Devizes Road

Rear extension to first floor over existing ground floor accommodation and additional rear porch

It was agreed that a ‘no comment’ response should be made.

Decisions

PL/2021/10533: Maxcroft Farm, 5 Maxcroft Lane

Proposed three bedroom dwelling, parking and associated amenity in the garden of 5 Maxcroft Lane – approval given

PL/2021/09652: Maylands Farm, Whaddon Lane

Retention of timber cabin for use as a rural worker’s dwelling – approval given

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Katie Fielding to inform the Parish Council of her decision to leave her current role as county officer with WALC and Community First to take up a new role with the Stroke Association. The Clerk had sent best wishes to her on behalf of the Parish Council.

11. PUBLICATIONS

a) Clerks and Councils Direct – January, 2022.

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised since the last meeting:

Hilperton Village Hall – S.19 grant for tree work	£2,000.00
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Payments authorised this meeting:-

Clerk’s Salary for January, 2022	£520.00)	
Clerk’s Expenses	£205.65)	£725.65
Water2Business – Allotments supply 2/12/21 to 4/1/22		£42.00

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Grit Bin for Greenhill Gardens.
- Lack of police presence at PC meetings.
- Repairs to the Blind House door and stone ball on the roof.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 15th February, 2022.

The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.

Signed

Date