

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.45 pm on Tuesday, 21st June, 2022**

PRESENT	Cllr. E. Clark (Chairman)	Cllr. S. Sawyer
	Cllr. T. Carbin	Cllr. R. House
	Cllr. P. Turner	Cllr. S. Uncles
	Cllr. K. Hayes	Cllr. R. Allan
	Cllr. C. Prevett	

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Swift, Boreham, Fisher and Smokcum.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were none.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on the 17th May, 2022, were tabled and noted. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on the 17th May, 2022, were approved and signed.

4. CLERK'S REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minute 10 – Grant requests: The Clerk said she had sent a grant cheque to Rev. Rees in the amount of £1,000, to assist towards new carpeting in St. Michael's Church. She had also sent a grant cheque to HELP Counselling Services in the amount of £600. Both had been acknowledged, with thanks.

Minute 10 – Repairs to the Church Clock: As the repairs had already been paid for, the Clerk said she had treated this as a Section 19 grant and sent £110 to Rev. Rees. This had also been acknowledged, with thanks.

Minute 10 – Highways Request in respect of parking in Marshmead: The Clerk had sent the highways request form to Kirsty Rose at Wiltshire Council. Her reply stated that, having checked their records, she had found that the verge in question was not part of the adopted highway, nor under Wiltshire Council ownership. She could not, therefore, progress the request. This information had been passed on to the resident concerned.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman said he had received a letter from Ashford Homes, developers of the Church Farm site, which had come too late to be included on the agenda. It was with regard to possible further development in the field behind Church Farm. Parish Councillors agreed that they would wish to hear more from them about this, and that the developers should, perhaps, be invited to address the Parish Council at a future meeting.

An e-mail had just been received from the CPRE to say that Hilperton had come top of the Best Kept Village competition, in the West Wiltshire large village category, beating Dilton Marsh and Southwick.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Clark had nothing to report.

7. POLICE

PCSO Jack Thomas had sent his apologies and had nothing of significance to report.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Wiltshire Council Local Plan – Update

Dr. Beckett had sent her apologies, and Cllr. Allan gave an update on various issues, including road infrastructure, bat mitigation strategy and funding initiatives. Dr. Beckett had said there had been a good response from people attending the Jubilee fete, and that Staverton would be including the recently produced leaflet in their next newsletter. The formation of sub groups was moving forward, all working towards the Public Inquiry.

Allotments/Community Orchard

Cllr. House said that one plot had had to be re-let recently. With regard to the possible location of a pond, Natural England had expressed an interest in putting one in in the corner of the orchard, as part of a larger strategy to preserve great crested newts. Cllr. House said that they would now do a survey and let people know if the site was acceptable. The Parish Council would not be asked for any funding towards this initiative, but could, of course, help if planning permission was required. Ideally, it was hoped that the pond could be dug in the autumn, but realistically Cllr. House said it was more likely to be sometime in 2023. There were also plans to place a solitary bumble bee box in the orchard.

Parish Councillors were in favour of these initiatives, and felt plans should go ahead. It was pointed out that if a pond was created, the Parish Council's insurers would need to know, and details should be shown on the PC's Risk Assessment.

Works for the Parish Steward

As usual, the Chairman asked parish councillors to contact him with details of jobs that needed to be done on the steward's next visit.

Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee

Cllr. Turner gave a report on the Jubilee fete. She said it had gone very well, she was sure the vendors had had a successful afternoon, and the bar certainly took in excess of £3,000. The cream teas were very well received, the organisers kept the number at 400 and all were distributed. She had received some very favourable comments and all the teas were gone by 3.30pm. The extra Jubilee mugs had also gone, with donations received varying from £1 to £5 each, together with some additional donations for the teas. The total came to £209.30, and it was unanimously agreed that this should be put back into parish council funds.

On the day, due to issues with high winds and consequent delivery delays, the Village Hall committee decided not to use the two bouncy castles they had ordered, but rather have a credit from the company, and then use them for a family evening on the fields in the summer. The marquees were a great addition, the large one delivering seating for 100+ people and the smaller one providing a shelter and a facility for live music.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Chairman of the Village Hall committee to thank him and his volunteers for organising the fete and for working so hard to make it a success.

Village Hall Play Equipment – Annual Inspections

The new play equipment had had a tremendous reception from children and parents alike. The Village Hall committee was about to order a sign to be mounted nearby, saying that it was commissioned to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, and crediting the Parish Council and the Trowbridge Area Board for

their support. Cllr. Turner said the recent inspection by Playdale had uncovered a few issues, mostly 'low risk', and some repairs needed, most of which could be done by committee volunteers.

The Clerk had been in touch with one of the Sutcliffe Play directors regarding annual inspections of both their equipment and the other equipment in the play area, and he had recommended the services of an independent inspector, who was a member of the Association of Play Inspectors. He had recently undertaken the post-installation inspection of the Sutcliffe play equipment. The Clerk was expecting to hear from him shortly.

Speed Indicator Devices

The Chairman apologised for not having moved this forward, but said he would have some information in readiness for the July meeting.

Greenhill Gardens: Grit Bin and request for more Lighting

Cllr. Uncles said he had not heard anything lately concerning the request for more lighting, and would continue to chase up the Wiltshire Council officer concerned on this issue.

With regard to the grit bin, he had been told by Martin Rose, Area Manager, Highways, that Wiltshire Council now only replaced damaged or broken bins at existing locations. They did not provide new bins at new locations. He had gone on to say that Wiltshire Council currently had 1600 grit bins on its network, for which they were responsible for maintaining and filling. They did not in principle have any objection to town and parish councils installing their own grit bins but Wiltshire Council would not take on the liability for maintenance or filling/refilling the bin. The responsibility for this would fall on the parish council.

It was agreed that the Clerk should make some enquiries about the purchase of a grit/salt bin.

'Private' Planters at the War Memorial

Two painted wooden planters had mysteriously appeared at the War Memorial during the week leading up to the Jubilee celebrations. After a short discussion, it was unanimously agreed that a) they should be removed and b) this should be discouraged in future. The Parish Council was the custodian of the War Memorial, and had its own willing volunteers, such as Lesley House, to care for it and the area around it. As it was generally known who had put the planters in place, the Clerk was asked to contact him and ask him to remove them, saying that he had not asked the Parish Council for permission.

Village Hall Meeting 9/6/22 – Letter from the Chairman regarding the Jubilee Fete and other matters

Copies of Tim Davies' letter had been sent to all parish councillors. The fete, the new play equipment and the inspection report had all been discussed, and there remained the problem of recent incidents of youths in cars driving onto the playing fields in the evenings and 'boy racing' around the pitch. The Village Hall committee had been concerned for some time that there was a virtual open vehicle access to the playing fields, which left them vulnerable to all kinds of issues, and it was felt that the only way to secure the area was to place wooden bollards a little way back from the car park edge. There would have to be some which could be raised when vehicle access was needed, e.g. for occasions such as the fete and grass cutting. After a short discussion, it was agreed that this initiative should have the Parish Council's support, although some members suggested that planting trees or hedging might be another option.

Paxcroft Mead Play Areas – Possible new equipment/maintenance

The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council might wish to think about buying a piece of play equipment for the Lacock Gardens play area, the maintenance of which should fall to Wiltshire

Council. He further suggested that the Parish Council might reconsider its decision not to adopt play areas in the parish, but this would be a major step to take. He said that Hilperton had ‘lost’ a few play areas and only Millards Close and a few others were left. Therefore there were two options:- one to contact Wiltshire Council about the possibility of the Parish Council purchasing some play equipment which would continue to be maintained by Wiltshire Council; or the Parish Council should take over the play areas within the parish. There would be no funding from Wiltshire Council for this. It was agreed that the Chairman should contact Wiltshire Council about this matter.

9. PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

PL/2021/10373 – Bekson Farm, 54 Whaddon Lane

Permanent siting of a Biomass boiler and container for the control unit (retrospective)

Minerals and Waste application

It was agreed that the Parish Council should reiterate the comments made last December, when it strongly objected to this application. Members still could not understand the logic of siting a biomass boiler so close to neighbouring properties and believed that this application should be turned down by Wiltshire Council.

PL/2022/01366 – Willow Brook Barn, Whaddon

Replacement of garage timber doors with new glazed thermally broken aluminium frame windows and doors to match the rest of the house (retrospective) – listed building consent.

Cllr. Allan declared an interest in this application the applicant being known to him.

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

PL/2022/04574 – Hilperton Grange, works to trees in a conservation area.

T1 Cherry, side prune back to fence line, T2 Chestnut, side prune back to fence line, leaving good screening for neighbouring property.

It was agreed that no objection would be made to this application, as long as the planning officer concerned approved of the works to be undertaken.

PL/2022/04505 - 8 Compton Close, Single storey rear dining room extension

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

Decisions

PL/2022/01082 – 5 Saxon Drive: Single storey front and side extension – approval given.

PL/2022/01699 – 34 Marshmead: Single storey side extension to provide additional living accommodation – approval given.

PL/2022/03459 – 259a Ashton House, Hill Street

Works to trees in a conservation area – T1 Birch tree TPO TAG - W/04/00011/IND. Failed at rootplate during storm Eunice – No objection.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

11. PUBLICATIONS

WALC Newsletter – May, 2022

12. ACCOUNTS**Adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2022**

It was unanimously agreed that the accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2022, should be adopted.

Payments authorised since the last meeting

Hilperton PCC – section 19 Grant towards new carpeting	£1,000.00
Hilperton PCC – Section 19 grant for clock repairs	£110.00
HELP Counselling Services – Section 137 Grant	£600.00
Id Verde – planters and maintenance for May, 2022 (including £20.26 VAT)	£121.59
Sutcliffe Play South West – new play equipment at the Village Hall (including £4,663.41 VAT)	£27,980.41
R. A. Book Keeping – Work on the internal audit of accounts	£95.00
Stonehill Office-right – stationery (including £6.44 VAT)	£38.64
*Arthur J. Gallagher Limited – Annual Insurance Premium, including Insurance Premium Tax	£1,634.95
Celia M. Beckett – laminated posters	£36.00

Payments authorised this meeting

Clerk's Salary for June, 2022	£533.00)	
Clerk's Expenses	£146.25)	£679.25

**Note: The Chairman said that Gallaghers had merged with Came and Co. during 2021, and had offered a three-year fixed premium, which the Clerk had accepted, as Responsible Financial Officer.*

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were none.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 19th July, 2022 (apologies from the Chairman)

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

Signed Date

