

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HILPERTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, WHADDON LANE, HILPERTON,
at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 20th December, 2022**

There were two members of the public present.

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

Before the start of the meeting, Mr. Andrew Cresci spoke against planning application PL/2022/08726. The Chairman informed members that Stan Thompson, a former member of the Parish Council, had recently died, and members held one minutes' silence in his memory. The meeting was declared open at 7.07pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Fisher, Allan, Prevett, Boreham and Uncles.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Planning application PL/2022/08726: The Chairman, knowing personally two people living near the site, and Cllr. House, due to his previous business dealings with the applicant.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 15th November, 2022, were approved and signed.

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

Minute 8 – Grant to Victim Support: The Clerk had sent the grant cheque to the charity and this had been gratefully acknowledged.

Minute 8 – Neighbourhood Plan: The Chairman was waiting for a response to an e-mail sent to consultant Dave King to say that the Parish Council was considering a review of its Neighbourhood Plan and asking for a rough idea of the cost to bring the plan back into the two-year window.

Minute 8 – New Parliamentary Boundaries: The Chairman had sent the Parish Council's response to the Boundary Commission.

Minute 8 – Church Farm, Ashford Homes: The Clerk had thanked Stuart Morgan and Tom Griffiths for addressing the Parish Council in November, noting the content of the presentation and awaiting their submission to Wiltshire Council of a formal planning application.

Minute 15: Christmas cards and donations had been sent to the three Coal Charity recipients.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and invited them to the Village Hall bar afterwards for some festive refreshments.

6. WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Clark said there had been a cabinet meeting on the 13th December and the plan to divert footpath Hilperton 54 would go to central government for approval.

7. POLICE

The Chairman reminded members that Inspector Andrew Lemon would be attending the January, 2023, meeting to give a short presentation to the Parish Council.

8. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Wiltshire Council Local Plan – Update, to include the need for a Flood Plan

Dr. Beckett was unable to attend the meeting, but the Chairman said that she and her team had been working very hard. They had finally received a response from Bradford-on-Avon town council and Dr. Beckett hoped to go along to one of its meetings shortly.

Wiltshire Council Local Plan – an ‘Alternative’ site to that in the draft Plan

The Chairman informed members, in confidence, of a possible scheme to try to amend the Local Plan so that an alternative site to the one proposed by Wiltshire Council could be used for building.

Wiltshire Council Local Plan – to consider making an Environmental Information Request (EIR) to Wiltshire Council re. the forthcoming Local Plan consultation

In the absence of Cllr. Allan, the Chairman said that Dr. Beckett and the members of HAAG had recently made a disclosure request to Wiltshire Council on a particular matter of concern, and Wiltshire Council had responded to this request by refusing the disclosure of any documents, on various grounds. Cllr. Allan had therefore prepared, for approval by the Parish Council, a draft EIR request, copies of which had been sent to all PC members. After a discussion of this draft, it was agreed that it should be sent to Wiltshire Council’s Information Officer. (Proposed by Cllr. Carbin, seconded by the Chairman, six in favour, with one abstention). Thanks were expressed for the work Cllr. Allan had put into this document.

Casual Vacancy – to consider the co-option of a new Parish Councillor

Wiltshire Council had now informed the Parish Council that, as they had not received a request for an election by ten electors, the vacancy following the resignation of Danny Swift could be filled by co-option. The Chairman asked members to give this matter their consideration with a view to co-opting a resident in the Hilperton Marsh or Paxcroft Mead area.

Allotments/Community Orchard

Cllr. House had e-mailed all allotment-holders, informing them about the barriers which had recently been erected around the playing field, and he had received good feedback. He had been given a key by the Village Hall Chairman to be able to unlock those barriers that could be lowered, but this could only be done in exceptional circumstances.

Works for the Parish Steward

The Chairman asked parish councillors to contact him, as usual, with details of jobs that needed to be done on the steward’s next visit, which would probably be on the 5th and 9th January, 2023.

Greenhill Gardens: Grit Bin and additional lighting updates

Cllr. Uncles was unable to attend the meeting, so an update on the positioning of the grit bin could not be given. As far as the extra lighting was concerned, the Clerk had contacted Kirsty Rose to inform her that the Parish Council had agreed to pay £1,150 as its contribution towards the lighting costs.

Paxcroft Mead Play Areas: Update, to include Assets Transfer

A detailed discussion took place on this matter, including a list of assets prepared by Wiltshire Council’s estates and development department and forwarded to the Chairman (he had sent this to all members). This was a list of assets which could possibly be looked at to include in any asset transfer to the Parish Council, and it was mostly incorrect and/or out-of-date. Following the discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman should go back to Wiltshire Council to say that the Parish Council would only consider taking over four play areas (Foxglove, Lacock Gardens, Millards Close and Stourton Park) plus – possibly – the open area of land near Towpath. He should ask Wiltshire Council for a

definitive plan which showed exactly where these play areas were situated. Further discussion could then take place at the January, 2023, PC meeting.

SIDS Update

The Chairman had met Kirsty Rose and another WC officer shortly after the November PC meeting. He was pleased to say that one lamp post in Marsh Road was strong enough to support a SID, so it appeared that the Parish Council might only have to pay for one pole along the Trowbridge Road.

Street Naming: Barratt Homes (another four names needed for their development off Elizabeth Way) and Bellway Homes (Weavers Meadow, off Elizabeth Way (nine names needed)

In the absence of Cllr. Boreham, Cllr. Turner said that not a lot of progress had been made with regard to street names being dedicated to those servicemen who gave their lives in the two world wars (and whose names were listed on the War Memorial). In her opinion, if the Parish Council wished to stick with this idea, it could take a long time for permission to be sought from any living relatives of the fallen. The Chairman said that there was no real rush to come up with the street names and the Parish Council might have to go back to the other ideas put forward.

Consideration of ways to commemorate the life of the late Queen Elizabeth 11

Cllr. Carbin said that, after some thought, he felt that his suggestion to dedicate an historic map of Hilperton was not such a good idea. A discussion followed, and it was agreed that as 'Elizabeth Way' had already been dedicated to the late Queen, nothing further should be done to commemorate her life, and this matter should be closed as far as the Parish Council was concerned.

Beat the Street 2023

Since the last meeting, the Clerk had spoken with Hayley Bell of Trowbridge Town Council regarding the kind of support required (other than the £500 contribution) towards this initiative. She had said that the Parish Council would be expected to promote the project with residents, via social media pages, newsletters, information for community groups using the Village Hall, and by word of mouth. She would be happy to attend PC meetings to give an update on the project and to run some community sessions where residents would be able to sign up and seek additional information, if required. A short conversation followed and as there was a distinct lack of support from members, it was agreed that the Parish Council should not support the initiative (Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. House, all in favour).

WALC –Consideration of a letter from WALC requesting member councils' input in setting of future subscriptions etc.

A copy of this letter had been e-mailed to all members, and it was agreed that the Clerk should go back to WALC to say that, as the Parish Council had no idea of their overheads, it could not really make any contribution towards the discussion of annual subscriptions. However, the Chairman and Cllr. Hayes said they would be prepared to attend a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, 18th January, 2023, at 6.30 p.m. and the Clerk should give the County Secretary their e-mail details.

Hilperton War Memorial – Sweeping

It was agreed that discussion on this agenda item should take place at the January, 2023, meeting.

Parish Council Notice Board at Hackett Place

It was agreed that this notice board should be removed, and Cllr. House agreed to do this (Cllr. Smokcum offered his assistance). The Chairman said that a possible place to re-site it could be the Village Hall, which would then free up space on their own notice board.

Paxcroft Farm Road Traffic (Byway by the Rugby Club)

Cllr. Smokcum said that the amount of traffic using this byway had increased considerably, including heavy vans. The Chairman suggested that there might be possible to have a six-month suspension of any motorised vehicles using the byway, and he said he would could contact Kirsty Rose at Wiltshire Council to see if this could be done.

9. PLANNING MATTERS**Applications**

PL/2022/08548 – 40 Newhurst Park: Two-storey side extension with internal alterations and garage. It was agreed that an objection should be made to this application on the grounds of over-development of the site. (Proposed by Cllr. Smokcum, seconded by the Chairman, four in favour, two against and one abstention).

PL/2022/08713 – 16 Newhurst Park

Demolition of rear conservatory, single storey rear and side extensions with associated internal alterations, and landscaping of the rear garden.

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

PL/2022/08726 – Land off Ashton Road: erection of one dwelling and detached garage.

It was agreed that an objection should be made to this application as a) it was outside Village Policy Limits/Settlement Boundaries and b) the land was not allocated in the Neighbourhood Development Plan. (Proposed by Cllr. Hayes, seconded by Cllr. Sawyer, four in favour with three abstentions, two from the Chairman and Cllr. Carbin).

PL/2022/08771 – 49 St. Mary’s Close: Two storey side extension

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

PL/2022/08789 – 30 Marshmead

Second floor extension and rear single storey extension (replacing conservatory)

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

PL/2022/09236 – Ashton House, 259 Hill Street

Works to trees in a conservation area: Two Leyland cypresses forming one canopy. Fell due to proximity of house, trees within 2.5m to footings and overhanging roof.

It was agreed that no objection should be made to the proposals as long as the work met with the approval of the tree officer concerned. However, the Parish Council should add that if the works were permitted, care should be taken by the tree surgeons not to damage the existing magnolia tree next to the cypress trees.

PL/2022/09408 – Maylands Farm, Whaddon Lane: erection of riding arena and track.

It was agreed that an objection should be made to this application unless a condition was imposed to ensure that the riding arena and track remained for personal use only and not permitted for commercial use. (Proposed by Cllr. Hayes, seconded by Cllr. Smokcum, five in favour, one against and one abstention from the Chairman).

Decisions

PL/2022/07616 – 34 Marshmead

Enclosed porch extension to include WC and cloakroom – approval given.

PL/2022/07924 – 13 Newleaze

Removal of existing outbuilding and new flat roof side extension to the annexe – approval given.

PL/2022/08233 – 1 Horse Road: Proposed new dwelling (outline application) to include means of access together with formation of new access for parking for the existing dwelling – approval given.

Request for TPOs – land North of Devizes Road (east end)

The Chairman had made a request for TPOs to be placed on a group of trees in the area, due to their amenity value. The response from Wiltshire Council’s senior tree officer was that it was unlikely that they would place any trees within this proposed development site under TPO protection as there was no direct threat to the trees as such.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter of thanks from Victim Support for the grant given to them.

11. PUBLICATIONS

a) Countryside Voices – Autumn/Winter 2022

12. ACCOUNTS

Payments authorised since the last meeting

Mrs L. House – plants for the War Memorial	£59.75
Water2Business – Allotments supply	£54.03
Victim Support – Section 137 grant	£300.00
Townsend Design and Print – local plan leaflets	£177.00
Id Verde – Planters and maintenance (including £20.27 VAT)	£121.60
Perrett Fencing – Balance payable re. Village Hall bollards (including £190.00 VAT)	£1,140.00
Mrs M. E. Timms – reimbursement of cash for Coal Charity recipients	£60.00
Revision 4 – Web hosting and back-up	£111.88

Payments authorised this meeting

Clerk’s Salary for December, 2022	£533.00)	
Clerk’s expenses	£150.90)	£683.90
CPRE – Annual subscription		£36.00

13. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

a) King Charles 111’s Coronation in May, 2023.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 17th January, 2023.

The meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.

Signed Date

