

## **HILTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of Hilton Parish Council held at the Old  
Brewery Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011 at 7 pm

**PRESENT** Mrs Catherine Langham (Chairman)  
Mr Philip Clive  
Mr W Earp  
Mrs Dee Stephens  
Mrs Marion Walbridge  
Mr Rodney Northover

**IN ATTENDANCE** Pat Gubbins (Parish Clerk) and Graham Burton, (Old Brewery Hall Management Committee) and eight members of the general public

### **1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Jim Waterworth, Hilary Cox (County Councillor), and Della Jones (District Councillor).

### **2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on December 7th having been circulated Philip Clive proposed and Marion Walbridge seconded that they were a true record, and they were unanimously approved.

### **3 MATTERS ARISING – An Apology**

William Earp took issue with item 8, Footpaths and Bridleways, in the minutes of the previous meeting which he had been unable to attend. He pointed out that he had rolled the field in question two days after ploughing in October, and was therefore in compliance with all requirements for reinstatement of rights of way. In view of the publication of these minutes in the *Village News* he felt his reputation as a farmer had been damaged, and that a public apology was due. Councillors accordingly apologised for this misrepresentation of the facts.

Mr Earp then left the meeting as he had a prior engagement.

### **4 OPEN FORUM**

Considerable concern was expressed by members of the public about the lack of snow clearance and gritting during the recent two heavy snowfalls. Accidents, including one involving the school bus, had occurred and travel had been dangerous and often impossible. The Clerk reiterated that this Council had been lobbying for the bus route from Puddletown to Dewlish, Cheselbourne, Ansty cross, and Hilton to Milton Abbas to be included in the category 2 gritting programme, but with no success so far, in spite of the support of the County Councillor. Hilary Cox would be holding a meeting of all the parishes in her Ward with representatives of Highways to discuss the unsatisfactory situation. It was also hoped to hold a joint meeting of all parishes covered by this route, to discuss a self-help programme if DCC continue to fail to support us.

Brian Gill also commented on the unsatisfactory 'dry fill' pothole filling which only lasted a few months, proving more expensive in the long term, and the fact that the grit bins remain unfilled.

Others said that cars had incurred damage to tyres and coachwork due to the state of the roads, and asked what form of compensation was available. The Clerk will investigate

Clive Jones said several cases of crime affecting farms had been reported recently. He drew attention to a 'Stop That Thief' device – a ray across gateways which could raise

the alarm – supplied by the Police. This can be purchased, or is available on a rota system free of charge. Further information [c.j.moonfleetfarm@btinternet.com](mailto:c.j.moonfleetfarm@btinternet.com)

Several cases of flytipping were reported, and it was suggested that the Blandford tip should be publicised

## 5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**2011/0017 The Cottage, Aller Lane**, demolish extension, build 2-floor extension. No complaints from neighbours, agreed unanimously no objections.

**2011/0032 Greenacre, the Knapp, Hilton**. Demolish existing buildings and erect new house and garage.

The applicants answered questions from Councillors. They had consulted NDDC planners and the application was in accordance with the advice received. The new house will be further away from neighbouring properties, and boundary trees will be left in place. After discussion it was unanimously agreed 'No objections'.

## 6 WINTER SERVICES

These had been thoroughly discussed in Item 4 above. It had been agreed at the last meeting to buy a further grit bin for The Knapp in Hilton, and a cheque had been drawn. However it was agreed to delay the purchase until after the meetings referred to above

## 7 FINANCE

Current A/c £1396.71; Benefit Account £5654.60; including Parish Plan £349.52; POPP £50

The following cheques were authorised:

Cheques-	- Clerk's Salary (Jan/Feb)	£378.00
	- Clerk's Expenses	£18.69
	- Brewery Hall rent to March 2011	£25.00
	- Grit Bin	£126.13

Proposed Rodney Northover, seconded Dee Stephens the financial report was accepted..

## 8 FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

The Chair reported that regrettably it is not possible to provide dog access in the newly erected footpath fence, and dog owners experiencing difficulty will need to use the nearby bridleway gate.

Some, but not all, of the signposts where Rights of Way leave the road have been replaced.

## 9 HIGHWAYS

Pot holes in Pleck Lane have been spray-marked prior to filling, but the major problem with road subsidence has yet to be addressed. In answer to a query from Michael Cox, the Clerk said that the Forestry Commission had promised to cut back the trees overhanging the road between Hilton and Milton Abbey.

The verges opposite the Cottage in Aller Lane are badly abraded.

## 10 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was available on the table. The Head of Damory buses had kindly supplied a laminated small print version of the bus timetable pending fulfilling our frequent requests for a new timetable box at the Brewery Hall Ansty; Blandford Leisure Centre has secured funding until 2013, but is expecting a considerable shortfall thereafter; Publicity received about the forthcoming May elections for District and Parish Councils and about the Census – notices to go in Village News encouraging

parishioners to take part; Forestry commission consultation in Blandford on March 10<sup>th</sup>; British Legion celebrating 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Poppy Parties next June; Best Kept village entries sought.

#### **11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Dee Stephens said the revised Transport Plan is now available on [Dorsetforyou.co.uk](http://Dorsetforyou.co.uk). The Environment group hopes to hold an Energy Exchange meeting in June, where various users of energy saving schemes can share their experiences. It was agreed that this could take place after the Parish Council meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25 pm. The next meeting will be held on March 1st<sup>h</sup> 2011 at 7.0 pm in the Old Brewery Hall.