

**MINUTES OF HILTON PARISH COUNCILS VILLAGE MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2008  
AT HILTON VILLAGE HALL  
COMMENCING AT 7.00PM**

**Present**

Cllr Kolkman (in the Chair)

Cllr Keery, Cllr Walton-Knight, Cllr Higginbotham, Cllr Bates, Cllr Plenderleith and Cllr Smalley.

1 Member of the Public was also present at the meeting.

**1. Minute Number 582/08/VM/A - Public Speaking.**

Ian Hey explained that dog fouling around the village was becoming an ever increasing problem. The Chair explained that this had been a problem for as long as she had been on the Parish Council and would be covered within her report later in the meeting. She explained that Hilton Harriers were making signs for The Mease to highlight the £80.00 fixed penalty notice for offenders leaving dog fouling.

Cllr Keery reported that the Hilton Church Play Group would also be producing signs for the children's play area at the Village Hall with regards to dog fouling.

It was reported that the Irresponsible dog owners that did not collect their dogs fouling were causing problems for the responsible residents of the village.

**2. Minute Number 582/08/VM/B - Police.**

There was not Police representative, there was nothing to report.

**3. Minute Number 582/08/VM/C – County Council**

Cllr Hood sent his apologies, there was nothing to report.

**4. Minute Number 582/08/VM/D – District Council**

Cllr Patten sent her apologies

Cllr Plenderleith was present at the meeting, there was nothing to report.

**5. Minute Number 583/08/VM - To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Banton.

**6. Minute Number 584/08/VM - Variation of the Order of Business.**

There was no Variation to the Order of Business.

**7. Minute Number 585/08/VM - Declaration of Members Interests.**

There was no Declaration of Members Interests.

## **8. Minute Number 586/08/VM - Chairpersons Report**

Chairpersons Report for Parish Council Annual Meeting on 14th May 2008

As I come to the end of my 3<sup>rd</sup> and final term as Chair I look back on what again as been a memorable year in terms of what has been achieved in the village.

The new classroom block at the primary school has been opened along with the new entrance on Welland Road, unfortunately without the turning circle; even so I believe it has alleviated some of the pressure on the Peacroft lane entrance.

The Mease Pavilion was handed over to the Parish Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> September – albeit not completed. HH have been using the facility but not to it's full potential, due to the final accounts not being produced by the contractor. It was also very sad to hear that over the Christmas break it was subject to criminal damage and graffiti costing in the region of £2000 to repair along with all the inconvenience caused as a result of these mindless vandals. The work for the proposed police station to be constructed next to the pavilion, is presently out to tender and we are hoping the build will begin sooner rather than later.

The village hall site has been completed with the children's play area proving very popular. The Parish council has been asked by SDDC to take over this facility; so negotiation are taking place to have certain areas and equipment in a correct state of repair before we take ownership. I'm sure you would all agree it is a vast improvement on what was previously there.

Paul Watts the project manager employed by SDDC to deliver some of the projects highlighted in the village plan, resigned after 6months which bought about its own pressures on the parish council to make sure the schedule of works continued. The Parish Council Clerk Clare Orme unofficially took over and has done a wonderful job along with parish councillors who also rallied round to make sure we could deliver the needs of the village.

The Village Hall booking clerk Ben Dowell resigned in February due to other work commitment. We would like to thank him for all his hard work over the past years. A new clerk has been appointed and now works in the office Mon – Friday 9am-1pm. This has managed to take some of the work load off Clare who has done a fantastic job carrying out the day to day running of the halls accounts. The end of year accounts have just been sent to the auditor and the PC would like to thank Clare for all her efforts in the mammoth task of preparing the accounts. Thank you Clare

There are many plans for the VH going forward one of which is an "extension" to give us a bigger and better facility, greatly needed as the village continues to grow. 12 out of 16 of the original tasks identified in the village plan drawn up some 4 yrs ago have been delivered, a great achievement. A Hilton Community Action group has now been formed to update the plan and are now in the process of consulting with residents as many more people have moved into our community during the said 4 yrs, and we feel it is only fair to let them have their say in the future of the village. Anyone wishing to be involved in the group please contact Amy Plenderleith via the Clerk.

In October, we held a Public Meeting regarding Derbyshire County Council identifying appropriate locations for waste sites. Hilton Business Park on the Mease was identified as a potential area. We had an overwhelming turnout of nearly 300 residents and 2000 letters of objection were sent to the Council. We have heard nothing more as yet. The next round of consultation is set for September, as soon as we hear anything we will be informing residents via our website, [www.hiltonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.hiltonparishcouncil.org.uk), [www.aboutmyarea.co.uk](http://www.aboutmyarea.co.uk) and the Hilton Directory.

We are excited to report that the Scout Hut has eventually been demolished to give way to a new and larger hut. This build should be completed by September; we wish them luck with the project.

The Parish Council are about to begin the tendering process to refurbish the tennis courts, another facility desperately in need of updating which in its present state is not been used to its full potential.

£60,000 has been earmarked by SDDC for this project but with the help of Ian Hey, Community Partnership Officer at SD we are hoping to obtain funding which will then allow us to put the £60,000 towards other projects.

Work has also taken place on the Back Lane Playing fields on the ditches and at the bottom end of the small football pitch to try and stop water logging of the pitches. We are very hopeful that this will work; only time will tell.

The grass bank on Egginton Road for which the Parish Council obtained a cultivation licence, has been a project of the Gardening Club of which they can be very proud. I, on behalf of The Parish Council, would like to thank them, they have worked incredibly hard and have transformed it from what was an overgrown eyesore to something which enhances the village and makes me notice and admire it each time I pass. There will be an official opening of the garden on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 5.30pm.

3 areas which represent a continuing challenge to the Parish Council are Dog Fouling, recycling and anti-social behaviour. These issues have plagued the Parish Council for as long as I can remember and frankly we are at a loss to know how best to deal with them. The dog fouling increases year on year and even with all the bins and notices around the village, people still fail to clean up after their dogs. The Parish Council will continue to raise awareness of this issue especially on the football pitches on Back Lane and The Mease and urge residents to report any incidents they witness. It is the responsibility of all of us to irradiate this problem. To this effect 3 residents of the village have already been fined £80 each. The recycling issue again fails to be addressed by SDDC. We are all urged to recycle but unfortunately the planners at the council on 3 occasions have ignored the Parish Council's requests for the major developers to incorporate recycling areas in their housing schemes. The Main Street site is always overflowing. It is worthy of note that any items left at the banks but not in the bins are not recycled. They are classed as contaminated and go to land fill which defeats the object somewhat. If the bins are full please do not leave items on the ground take them to another centre or back home. Finally the anti social behaviour of some of the youngsters of the village still continues, even with the new play areas, Skate Park, a huge football club and a Teenage action group they still say there is nothing to do. This village has a great deal more facilities than most villages and I feel this is just an excuse for them to drink and cause a nuisance. Parents must become more aware of where and what their children are doing as the cases of children being drunk and disorderly and acting in anti-social ways, increases in the village.

The precept rose again this year to £85k which did cause some concern. However after the article in the Hilton Directory explaining the reasons for this rise, most residents felt more at ease with the increase. Of course we would like not to have to increase the precept at all; however the ever increasing population and additional amenities that are required to sustain the village do come at a cost. It doesn't help either that SDDC work out the village population based on 2001 figures of just over 2,000 council tax paying residents, when we are nearer 6,000. We have asked SD if they can make Hilton a special case but unfortunately they say this is not possible, we can only hope they update their figures very soon.

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to say a thank you to our staff. Lengthsman Derek Woolliscroft and Groundsman Sam Bevins for all their hard work and dedication in what is an extremely difficult job they are a great team. Paul Stretton Caretaker of the village hall for always taking such a pride in the hall and nothing ever being too much trouble. Thank you to our district councillors Amy Plenderleith and Julie Patten for their support in District matters – and there's been a few....

Frank Hood our County councillor for his help especially with highway matters which are on going with the humps and drainage problems on Main Street which we are assured will be resolved this year...

Thank you to Ian Hey Community Partnership officer with SDDC and a resident of the village who has given the Parish Council valuable help and advice with funding and rural issues.

Thank you to our 2 PCSO's Kerry Waite and Rob Crane for all their hard work with matters in the village; it is obvious they care a great deal about our community as well as providing a much needed visible presence.

A big thank you goes to our Clerk Clare Orme without whose commitment, professionalism, and support the Parish Council wouldn't function and be the parish Council we are today. Thank you to my vice chair Jenny Keery who again has been a wonderful support to me as chair and Cllr Pete Walton-Knight for dealing with all the planning application received at Parish in such a consensus way.

Last but not least my wonderful Parish councillors who have offered me such great support throughout my time as Chair I can honestly say visiting and talking to other parish councils around the district there are few councils whose members are as committed as you. The people of Hilton are incredibly lucky to have such dedicated people who work so hard for them; I am truly proud and honoured to have been the Chair of such a great team and I know you will continue with the same level of support for my successor.

Thank you

END OF THE CHAIRPERSONS REPORT.

All Parish Council members thanked and congratulated Cllr Kolkman for all her hard work, dedication and professionalism in her time as Chairperson.

#### **9. Minute Number 586/08/VM - Guest Speakers Report**

The Clerk explained that PC Bale and PCSO Rob Crane and Kerry Waite had been invited but had given their apologies. She also explained that the Community Warden at South Derbyshire District Council had been invited but they had failed to reply.

#### **10. Minute Number 587/08/VM - Clerks Report**

The Clerk explained that the Hilton Parish Council Accounts would be audited by our Internal Auditor Mr Ian Fraser on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008. She explained that they would be ready to be passed by the Parish Council at the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

The Clerk requested that the Parish Council Meetings going forwards be booked at Hilton Village Hall rather than Percywood Community Lounge as the Village Hall was more central to the Village and may attract a higher attendance from members of the public.

***Resolved: All Parish Council Meetings to be booked at Hilton Village Hall in future with immediate effect.***

The Clerk explained that it had been another very busy year, which she had thoroughly enjoyed and thanked the Chairperson and the rest of the Parish Council Members for all of their hard work and support.

**11. Minute Number 588/08/VM - Date of the next Village Meeting for Hilton Parish Council**

The next Village Meeting for Hilton Parish Council to be confirmed closer towards May 2009.

**12. Minute Number 589/08/VM - Exempt Items**

There was nothing to report.

**CONFIRMATION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_