

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST
ON MONDAY 4th January 2013 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors W Smith (in the Chair), Bicknell,
Bowman, Curry, Holdstock, Larkin, Lyon, Mansfield
and I Smith.

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).
Mrs P Taylor, WBC.

8027 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

8028 Vacancies on the Council

The Clerk confirmed that no applications had been received and that a vacancy still remains covering the Village Ward.

8029 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3rd December 2012 were approved as a correct record. However, with reference to Minute 8026, Councillor Curry confirmed that the main hall floor is being resurfaced and not replaced this year.

8030 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

Public Forum

8031 The Chairman thanked Mrs Taylor for her regular attendance at Parish Council meetings and acting as an effective conjugate between the Parish and Borough Council. A number of issues were discussed, namely:

Broadband leaflets for distribution: Mrs Taylor confirmed that Andy Nichols, WBC has run out of leaflets but more will be coming shortly available. The Chairman confirmed that a note had gone in the last HVS newsletter.

Road Closure text alerts: Mrs Taylor confirmed that she will liaise with Graham Barnwell, WBC regarding the use of text alerts when roads are closed in the Borough.

Gateways: the Chairman expressed his on-going frustrations with regards the lack of progress in installing gateways to the Village. The Parish were fundamental in developing the original policy. Mrs Taylor confirmed that WBC will be contacting the Parish Council.

Police Matters

8032 The Chairman was pleased to welcome PCSO Jason Stavely to the meeting. Mr Stavely reported that there were no major incidents of note in Hurst recently.

8033 Planning Applications

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. Councillors agreed that they had no adverse comments relating to application F/2012/2263. The Council objected to application F/2012/2355.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to communicate the Parish Council's comments to Wokingham Borough Council.

8034 Provision for Young People in the Parish

Councillor Bowman confirmed that she is planning to meet with Mr John Edwards this week and will therefore report back to the Parish Council in February. Councillor Bowman reiterated that they need to discuss both needs and the feasibility of projects. It is also imperative that there is buy in and ownership from any parties/organisations likely to benefit.

8035 **Finance**

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:
Jan-13

	£	£
Previous Balance		47070.14

The following accounts are presented for approval this month:

Ref	Expenditure - Payee		
10.1	W Smith (expenses)		124.59
10.2	T Mansfield (expenses)		56.89
10.3	P Curry (expenses)		61.84
10.4	W Smith (expenses)		73.85
10.5	Ty Bolton (Nov 12 + park hedge)		217.50
10.6	Cannon (Dog bins)		51.00
10.7	Hurst Village Halls		23.11
10.8	M Bradshaw (Jan 13)	Salary	462.94
		Office	40.00
		Phone	20.00
		Mileage	2.35
			<hr/>
			525.29
	Total expenditure		1134.07
	Income		
			<hr/>
			0.00
	Revised balance c/f		45936.07

The draft budget for 2013/14 was discussed. Spending patterns are unlikely to significantly change and after detailed analysis members agreed that the precept for 2013/14 would remain unchanged from that of the previous year.

RESOLVED: the precept for 2013/14 was set at £22,500.

Councillor Larkin presented a finance paper regarding the income generated from the allotments in Tape Lane and the resulting expenditure. It was noted that the allotments are currently full with a waiting list of twelve. Whilst Members were keen to maintain a reasonable charge it was agreed that any unforeseen maintenance costs need to be absorbed and that a small reserve would be advisable.

RESOLVED: The cost of a 10 pole plot to be raised from £25 to £30 and a 5 pole plot from £12.50 to £15. In line with allotment legislation notice is to be given by April 2013 for the new rate to take effect from April 2014.

8036 **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence to bring to this meeting.

8037 **Information Reports**

Annette Drake

Members were delighted to note that ex Borough Councillor Annette Drake had been awarded the British Empire Medal in her Majesty the Queen's new year's honours list.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to write to Mrs Drake expressing the Parish Council's congratulations.

Traffic Monitoring Device

Councillor Mansfield updated Members regarding the progress of data collection via the traffic monitoring device. Ten surveys have now been completed and the Parish Council is ready to present this information to the Police. PCSO Stavely suggested that Councillor Mansfield approaches Sergeant Atkinson in the first instance.

Duck Crossing Signs

Councillor Mansfield reported to Members a query he had received regarding the safety of ducks crossing the roads around the village pond. He wondered whether any kind of warning sign could be erected. Discussions were held around the feasibility of adding additional signage and it was noted that this would have to be channelled through the highways department at WBC.

Further research is to be undertaken by Councillor Mansfield regarding the cost of a duck house for the village pond.

Ditches in Hogmoor Lane

Councillor Bowman expressed her on-going concerns regarding the overflowing and blocked ditches in Hogmoor Lane. These are blocked and presenting a flood risk as there is nowhere for excess water to drain. It was also noted that ditches in parts of Dalby Close have been filled in.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to ascertain from WBC who is responsible for the maintenance and clearing of the ditches.

The meeting ended at 9.00p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....