

# ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST  
ON MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

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

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

## 8665 **Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

## 8666 **Prejudicial Interest**

There were no prejudicial interests to declare.

## 8667 **Vacancy for Councillor (Village Ward)**

After many years of service, Councillor Bowman resigned from the Parish Council leaving a vacancy covering the Village Ward. The Clerk confirmed that this vacancy is currently being advertised on the Parish Council's website and notice boards. The Chairman confirmed that he would make Parishoners attending the first neighbourhood planning meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 aware of the vacancy.

## 8668 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018 were approved as a correct record.

## 8669 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous

## **Public Forum**

8670 There were no visitors to the public forum.

Chairman's Initials .....

8671 **Peter Baveystock and Irum Gulzar, Wokingham Borough Council (WBC)**

The Chairman welcomed both Officers to the meeting. Mr Baveystock updated Members regarding his new role under the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Council. He is now lead specialist for contracts which includes a far wider contract portfolio including waste and recycling.

WBC committed to weekly waste collections in 2010 and, following numerous discussions, it has been decided to continue this way with the contact with Veolia being extended a further 7 years. The recent introduction of additional plastics which can now be recycled has been welcomed and will hopefully reduce the current 18-20% rejection rate. The only item which remains problematic and cannot be recycled is black food trays.

In addition, food waste bins will be provided to households in late Autumn 2019 – currently 30% of the rubbish in blue refuse bags is attributable to food waste. To assist implementation, a 23-litre container will be provided to every household along with a smaller receptacle for use within the kitchen. Members discussed the possibility of inviting Mr Baveystock’s team to a “Meet your Councillors” session ahead of this implementation to increase awareness – this was considered a good idea.

Re3 has worked closely with the Council to send information to all householders and Members confirmed that this had been helpful and well communicated. Ms Gulzar added that householders can request additional black kerbside boxes if required.

Discussions were held regarding recycling banks and the collection of glass. It was explained that the bottle banks are considered the most effective means of collection as they colour sort at source. Mr Baveystock explained that it would cost in the region of £800k to kerbside collect glass and this could not be justified. It was recognised, however, that some parishoners cannot easily access bottle banks and Mr Baveystock confirmed that they are looking at the feasibility of bottle bank locations within sheltered housing establishments to address this.

Ms Gulzar explained that WBC are always seeking additional sites for bottle banks. It was noted that banks are already located at Dinton Pastures Country Park and The Green Man Public House within the Parish. It was suggested that the activity centre at Dinton Pastures, The Warren Inn or Hurst Village Halls may be suitable additional locations. The aim is to have 50 bottle banks across the Borough by 2020.

Mr Baveystock explained that the collection of commercial waste has been more effective and that the charges for dumping this type of waste had been introduced effectively. Members queried whether additional fly tipping had occurred as a result of these charges. Mr Baveystock confirmed that fly tipping had peaked in 2014/15 but he was pleased to report that this has now dropped and is stable.

The inclement weather suffered in the last week had delayed normal waste collection by 1- 2 working days. Operatives are on stand by for Saturday working if required but Mr Baveystock was confident that all waste collection would be achieved during the working week.

WBC will continue to keep householders informed of developments and Ms Gulzar explained that a monthly mailshot is planned. Officers thanked Members for their time and left the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- Councillor Curry to approach Hurst Village Halls to ascertain whether a bottle bank can be located at the Village Halls site; and
- Officers to be invited to a “Meet your Councillors” session in late Autumn 2019 coinciding with the introduction of food waste collection.

#### 8672 **Neighbourhood Planning**

The Chairman reported that the first meeting of the working group will take place on the 7th March 2018 led by Bell Cornwell the Council's chosen consultants. Quotes had been obtained by the Clerk from three potential providers and after evaluation, Bell Cornwell had been selected.

This will be a structured meeting covering aspects such as project planning and assigning roles and responsibilities to members of the group. The Chairman will provide feedback at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

#### 8673 **Community Asset Transfers**

Councillor Larkin was thanked for his meticulous work in reviewing the draft lease in respect of the Church Hill site. Members agreed that the Parish Council's comments should be forwarded to WBC Legal and this draft lease be used as the basis of all three leases which are now required for signing.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to send the Parish Council's comments to WBC and request final copies of all three leases for signing.

#### 8674 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. Members objected to applications 180243 and 173577. They had no adverse comments regarding application 180399.

Chairman's Initials .....

Extended discussion was had regarding application 180159 – a proposed climbing tower and zip wire at Dinton Pastures Country Park. Members agreed that it was very disappointing to note that neighbours had not been consulted with and that the Parish Council had not been consulted with at the pre planning stage. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Planning Officer with a view to an extension of time for comments being granted. This would enable consultation with neighbours and those potentially most affected. The size, construction and location of the proposed tower, along with the resulting noise was also a cause for concern. Councillor Curry declared that she had objected, as an individual, to the proposed application.

**RESOLVED:**

- The Clerk to communicate the Parish Council’s planning comments to WBC;
- An extension of time be requested with regards to application 180159.

**8675 Finance**

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

	£	<b>Main Fund</b>	<b>CIL*</b>	<b>Total</b>
Previous Balance		22178.33	19038.86	41217.19

The following accounts are presented for approval this month:

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Expenditure - Payee</b>		<b>Main Fund</b>	<b>CIL*</b>	<b>Total</b>
12.1	M Bradshaw (reimbursement for trimmer from Farol Ltd)		757.50		
12.2	M Bradshaw (reimbursement for ladder from Browns Ladders)		378.34		
12.3	Ty Bolton (Feb 18)		420.00		
12.4	Castle Water (Allotments)		152.76		
12.5	BDK Solutions (website hosting 1/1/8-31/12/18)		120.00		
12.6	SSE (Phone box)		4.92		
12.7	SSE (School Rd)		27.49		
12.8	Cannon (Dog waste removal Feb 18)		66.72		
12.9	Mark Ashley (internal decorating at St Nicholas Hurst School)			2690.00	
12.10	M Bradshaw	Salary (Feb 18)	923.13		
		(National Insurance)	-29.17		
		(Pension)	-7.38		
		Office	40.00		
		Phone	20.00		
		Mileage	2.35		
			948.93		
12.11	HMRC (Employee's National Insurance)		29.17		
12.12	Nest (Employee pension £7.38 + Employer pension £9.23)		16.61		
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<u>2922.44</u>	2690.00	5612.44
	<b>Income</b>		0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total Income</b>		<u>0.00</u>	0.00	0.00
	<b>Revised balance c/f</b>		<u>19255.89</u>	16348.86	<u>35604.75</u>

Chairman's Initials .....

**\* CIL Breakdown:**

The following CIL income is included in the above revised balance carried forward:

Jun-16	Fox and Hounds	1560.38
Oct-16	Fox and Hounds	1560.38
Apr-17	Fox and Hounds	1560.38
May-17	Fox and Hounds	12797.27
Nov-17	Fox and Hounds	1560.45
		<hr/>
		19038.86

RESOLVED: all payments were approved.

Grant awards for 2017/18

The Clerk confirmed that formal grant requests had been received from Keep Mobile, Wokingham Citizens Advice Bureau, Berkshire Vision, Me2Club, Deaf Positive Action and Loddon Valley Ramblers.

Members discussed the number of Parishoners using the services above and grants were awarded as below:

- Wokingham Citizens Advice Bureau - £150
- Berkshire Vision - £100
- Me2Club - £100

The Clerk to confirm with Deaf Positive Action how many Parishoners are using the service. The Chairman thought that HVS had also been asked for a grant from Loddon Valley Ramblers and would therefore enquire as to what their intention was. Members felt it inappropriate for both the Parish Council and HVS to award grants and this would therefore be reviewed.

RESOLVED:

- the Clerk to make payment to those organisations whose grants were approved and to confirm usage with Deaf Positive Action; and
- the Chairman to confirm if HVS were planning to make a grant to Loddon Valley Ramblers.

8676

**Correspondence**

Thank you letter from St Nicholas CE Primary School

The Chairman reported that a very nice thank you letter had been received from the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors at St Nicholas CE School in respect of the internal decoration work the Parish Council had supported.

Chairman's Initials .....

RESOLVED: the Clerk to post the thank you letter on the Parish Council website.

Valerie Bowman's leaving gift

Councillor Curry confirmed that a leaving gift had been purchased for Valerie Bowman, to be presented at an informal dinner at the end of March. Members thanked her for organising this.

Phone Box

Councillor Curry informed Members that she had sourced a handyman who would be able to paint the phone box – the possibility of using it as a lending library was discussed. This item to be carried forward to the agenda in March 2018.

Sycamore trees in Davis Street Playpark

Councillor Mansfield informed Members that he had now received quotes from various tree surgeons for both the removal and reduction of the three Sycamore trees in Davis Street Playpark. It was felt by the majority that there was no justification for the healthy trees being removed or the resulting expenditure. The area is a park and the Chairman confirmed that he could not justify to Parishoners the removal of trees for no reason. To date, no complaints have been received from the adjoining neighbouring property and it was therefore felt that the status quo was the likely option.

Council Mansfield agreed to ask the tree surgeons whether they considered any stray or damaged branches need lopping and revised quotes would be sought.

RESOLVED: Councillor Mansfield to request revised quotes.

8677

**Information Reports**

There were no information reports to bring to this meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

Signed.....  
Date.....

Chairman's Initials .....