

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST
ON MONDAY 4TH MARCH 2019 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

PUBLIC: One Member of the Public.

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

8790 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence. The Clerk informed Members that Christine Lambert had tendered her resignation with immediate effect. On behalf of the Parish Council the Chairman thanked her for her contribution during her tenure.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to advertise a vacancy for a Village Ward Councillor through the usual channels.

8791 Prejudicial Interest

There were no prejudicial interests to declare.

8792 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4th February 2019 were approved as a correct record.

8793 Matters Arising

The following matters were noted:

- Councillor Stephenson noted his frustration that, despite three written requests to Wokingham Borough Council (WBC), Officers had failed to respond to his query regarding his concerns at the end of Davis Way; and

- The Chairman reported that quotes had now been sought for the replacement of the decking boards on the larger of the Lodge Road permissive path footbridges. WBC has confirmed that they own the bridge and are seeking contributions from the Parish Council for its maintenance. Members agreed that, as the bridge is currently closed off, it requires urgent attention to repair the boards in their entirety and reopen what is a very well used footway.

RESOLVED:

The Chairman to escalate the query regarding the turning circle at the end of Davis Way to Senior Officers at WBC;

In light of the above point, Members to create a list of other issues which remain unresolved following requests to WBC - the Chairman to escalate; and

The Parish Council to approve repairs to the Lodge Road footbridge on the basis of a 50/50 split with WBC up to a maximum contribution of £1500.

8794 Public Forum

The Chairman welcomed one Member of the Public to the public forum – the parishoner requested of the Chairman whether there was any update following the submission of the Church Hill petition. The Chairman confirmed that he had received a road plan indicating where two potential road signs could be located. This was not the report he had been promised and did not address the issues raised at his site visit with the Officer. He was disappointed with the recommendations which did not reflect the conversations held.

Speed data had also been provided by WBC which Councillor Mansfield confirmed was largely consistent with speed checks undertaken previously by the Parish Council. On the basis of the speed data provided, the Police are highly unlikely to take any action. Councillor Stephenson stated that, in his opinion, the speed devices had been placed in the wrong locations by WBC. He resolved to meet at Church Hill with Councillor Mansfield and undertake a further speed check in, what he believed to be, the correct locations.

RESOLVED: the Chairman to revert back to the Officer and update Members when an answer is received; and
Councillors Mansfield and Stephenson to perform a further speed check in Church Hill.

8795 Neighbourhood Planning Update

The Chairman updated Members that the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group would be held towards the end of March 2019. In addition, a meeting of the sub working group was to be held with the Consultant on the 7th

March 2019 to specifically discuss issues relating to the questionnaire and housing needs assessment.

8796 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the application attached to these Minutes – they objected to application 190259.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to communicate the Parish Council’s planning comments to WBC.

8797 **Finance**

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

Mar-19									
						Main Fund	CIL*	Neighbourhood Planning **	Total
Previous Balance					£	36855.84	32209.62	2656.49	71721.95
The following accounts are presented for approval this month:									
Ref	Expenditure - Payee								
12.1	J Spiller (reimbursement for planting at allotments)					72.00			
12.2	OCS (Dog waste removal)					66.00			
12.3	Ty Bolton (Jan 19)					470.00			
12.4	SSE (Phone Box)					47.84			
12.5	SSE (School Road)					51.76			
12.6	SCS (Work at Church Hill site)						7211.73		
12.7	SCS (Tidy up of Martineau Green)					1099.20			
12.8	M Bradshaw	Salary (Feb 19)	969.27						
		(National Insurance)	-32.07						
		(Pension)	-23.26						
		Office	40.00						
		Phone	25.00						
		Mileage	2.35			981.29			
12.9	HMRC (Employee's National Insurance)					32.07			
12.10	NEST (Employee pension £23.26 + Employer pension £19.38)					42.64			
	Total Expenditure					2862.80	7211.73	0.00	10074.53
	Income								
	Total Income					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Revised balance c/f					33993.04	24997.89	2656.49	61647.42

Grant Awards for 2018/19

The Clerk confirmed that she had received three formal requests for grants this year from Keep Mobile (£406), Citizens Advice Bureau (£250) and Loddon Valley Ramblers (£406). She also reminded Members of the organisations which had been supported in previous years.

RESOLVED: all payments were approved; and

Grants for 2018/19 were awarded to:

Keep Mobile	£450
CAB	£250
Berks County Blind	£100
Me2Club	£100
Deaf Positives Action	£100
Donation to HVS	£200

Members requested further clarification from Loddon Valley Ramblers regarding the location of the kissing gate for which the grant funding had been requested and also whether the Parish Council would receive adequate publicity for its donation.

8798 Purchase of Speed Detection Device

The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken with the suppliers of the Sentinel Speed device which was the unit looking to be procured. She was advised that Woodley Town Council currently use the unit and it was agreed that a Member should speak with Woodley in the first instance to ascertain how the device is working in practice and specifically how it interfaces with the Police.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to contact her counterpart at Woodley Town Council with a view to a meeting being set up between Councillor Stephenson and their speedwatch Member.

8799 **Correspondence**

Church Hill Community Orchard

Following the previous meeting and the suggestion of a wild flower area at the Community Orchard, the Chairman confirmed that he had been advised by the Landscapers that the site was not suitable for a wild flower area. More dedicated areas of woodland and planting were more suitable. Daffodil bulbs are to be planted along the roadside edge. The Chairman confirmed that he had asked the Village Society if they would be prepared to donate four benches to the Community Orchard – it is hoped that this funding can be secured. Councillor Curry noted that a litter bin would need to be installed.

RESOLVED: Members to give further consideration as to the additional planting they would like to see. The Clerk to seek a litter bin and signage for the Community Orchard. Daffodil bulbs to be planted along the roadside.

Storage for Parish Council Equipment

The Chairman circulated draft plans which had been drawn up by an Architect indicating where a storage unit could be placed in School Road Playpark. Members discussed the initial plans and the overriding concern was that the Parish Council works closely with Neighbours of the Park to ensure that storage needs are met with all parties remaining happy with the proposal. Members agreed that a letter should be sent to the immediate neighbours asking for their comments and suggestions. The Chairman confirmed that he would be very happy to personally visit any neighbours who wanted to discuss the proposals further.

The Chairman believed that, from his discussions with WBC, planning permission is not required and that a Certificate of Lawfulness would be issued.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to draft a letter to all neighbours once the final version of the site plan is available.

Spring Litter Pick

The Parish litter pick will be held on the 23rd March 2019 commencing from the Village Halls at 9am.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to organise the production of two advertising banners.

Duck house

The Chairman reported that much research had been undertaken to ascertain the best replacement duck house for the village pond. As the focal point of the village, it was agreed that the structure had to be hard wearing and suitable for the wildlife in terms of size. The Chairman reported that he was hoping that the Village Society would assist with part funding the new duck house.

RESOLVED: the Epsom 8 Floating Duck house and anchors from Granddad Bob Designs Ltd be ordered in the value of £995 (Duck house) and £79 (Anchors and chains).

"Duck" Road sign

It was noted with sadness that two ducks had been killed on the main road earlier this week. The Clerk confirmed that she had made enquires with WBC regarding the erection of Duck road signs on the A321 and School Road.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to seek costings and report back to Members. In addition, Councillor Mansfield to provide speed data for these roads for the Clerk to pass to WBC.

Davis Street – dips in top soil

The Clerk reported that the Parish Grounds Maintenance Contractor had noted large dips in the topsoil at Davis Street Playpark. A quote had been provided for levelling top soil and Councillor Stephenson agreed to visit the site to ascertain the extent of the problem.

RESOLVED: Councillor Stephenson to visit Davis Street Playpark and report back.

Davis Street – refurbishment to play equipment

The Clerk reminded Members that the refurbishment of Davis Street Playpark had been on the agenda for some time and not yet fully addressed. It was agreed that quotes should be sought from Contractors to see what best fits in the space available.

RESOVLED: the Clerk to organise site visits with potential contractors.

Risk Assessment of Martineau Green

Councillor Stephenson highlighted that, as a result of this month’s risk assessment, the posts and railing surrounding the shrubbery at Martineau Green are decaying exposing sharp metal connectors. The Chairman confirmed that he had instructed the Parish’s Grounds Maintenance Contractors to remove broken fencing piecemeal as and when they identify it.

8800 Information Reports

There were no matters of information to bring to this meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....