

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST
ON MONDAY 8TH APRIL 2019 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor I. Smith.

PUBLIC: Four Members of the Public.

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

8801 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor I. Smith.

8802 Prejudicial Interest

There were no prejudicial interests to declare.

8803 Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

The Clerk confirmed that the vacancy covering the Village Ward had been advertised on the Parish noticeboards and website. No applications have been received to date.

8804 Minutes

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

8805 **Matters Arising**

The following matters were noted:

- The Chairman confirmed that he had spoken with the Highways Inspector regarding the reinstatement of the turning circle at the end of Davis Way. The Officer had confirmed that there are no historical records or plans available which indicate what previously existed. He asked if any Members or residents had evidence of the historical position to enable a comparison to be made; and
- Councillor Stephenson confirmed that he had made a site visit to Davis Street Playpark and the dips in the top soil should be filled, including the large dips under the swings. A quote had been sought from SCS in the value of £411 +VAT. Members agreed to proceed with this work.

RESOVLED:

Councillor Stephenson to ascertain whether any historical plans are available indicating what the turning circle at the end of Davis Way originally looked like; and

SCS to be commissioned to fill dips in Davis Street Playpark.

8806 **Public Forum**

The Chairman welcomed four Members of the Public to the public forum. One Member was in attendance to bring to the Parish Council's attention the issues of Lines Road being used as a regular cut through. Despite being an access only road, Lines Road is regularly used for cutting through, often at unacceptable and dangerous speed. The Chairman confirmed that he is aware of the issue and Councillor Mansfield undertook to set up a traffic monitoring survey so providing evidence for the Police. The Member of the Public noted the damage to verges as a consequence of heavy traffic flows and the possibility of these being reinstated. Another Member of the Public Forum requested that a "single track" road sign be erected in Lines Road indicating explicitly the narrow nature of the road. The Chairman concluded that he hoped the imminent purchase of a new Sentinel speed device may help with known issues such as Lines Road.

RESOLVED: Councillor Mansfield to undertake a traffic monitoring survey in Lines Road.

8807 **Neighbourhood Planning Update**

The Chairman updated Members that the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group would be held on the 11th April 2019.

8808 Community Speedwatch

Councillor Stephenson confirmed that he was due to meet with a Woodley Town Council Member to discuss how Speedwatch and the Sentinel device is working within Woodley.

The Chairman confirmed that he had spoken directly with Sentinel and asked Members if they would be minded to approve the purchase of a speed indicator device (containing a flashing 30mph logo) in the value of £1920.

RESOLVED: Members agreed unanimously the purchase of a 30mph speed indicator in the value of £1920.

8809 Davis Street Playpark

The Chairman updated Members with regards to possible refurbishment plans for Davis Street Playpark. The Clerk had received various offers from playground contractors outlining new play equipment aimed at the 3-7 year age bracket. This was considered a more appropriate age range for the playpark given that the play equipment on offer in Dinton Pastures is designed for the older child.

RESOLVED: the Clerk and Chairman to meet with Wicksteed, in the first instance, to gain a quote for additional play equipment and to seek advice regarding the existing equipment.

8810 Parish Council Storage Facilities

The Chairman confirmed that he had met with various neighbours of School Road Playpark and had received significant opposition to the siting of any storage facilities within the park. To this end, an alternative site within the village had been sought and Hurst Cricket Club has confirmed that they are happy for a storage container to be placed within the boundary of the Cricket Club for an annual ground rent of £250. SCS has agreed to complete the ground works and the Chairman is seeking quotes for a new container.

RESOLVED: Members agreed that the Cricket Club would be a suitable site. The Chairman was delegated responsibility to: source a suitable container and undertake all appropriate groundworks in conjunction with SCS.

8811 Planning Applications

Members discussed the application attached to these Minutes. They had no adverse comments with regards to applications 190452 and 190104.

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

The Chairman circulated the latest signage which had been proposed by Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) to combat the issues on Church Hill. The proposal included “dragons teeth” located on the road surface at either side of the sharp bend located outside The Castle Inn. Red road surfacing would be placed on the sharp bend.

Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)

The Clerk confirmed that all electrical equipment owned by the Parish Council had to be subjected to annual PAT testing. To this end, a device will be purchased which can be operated by a competent person. In addition, the ladder owned by the Council has to be subject to an annual inspection.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to purchase a PAT tester estimated to cost approximately £260.

Food Waste Bins

Councillors reported that not all homeowners had received the black food waste bins which should have been delivered by now to every household.

RESOLVED: the Chairman to take this matter up with WBC.

Meeting with WBC regarding locality issues

The Chairman and Clerk provided feedback to Members regarding a recent meeting they had attended at WBC with Borough Councillor John Halsall and Officer, Mark Redfearn, Lead Specialist Localities. The meeting was to explore the Parish Council’s views on various locality topics. The Chairman and Clerk confirmed that Hurst benefits from being largely self sufficient and this works well for the Parish. The Chairman’s ambition to have responsibility for verges and ditches passed to Hurst was noted and it is hoped that this will become reality in the future. The Clerk confirmed that she has a good working relationship with WBC and only minor frustrations occur with regards to the planning portal and obtaining direct access to officers.

8815 Information Reports

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

The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m. to enable Part II matters to be discussed. The Press and Members of the Public Forum were excluded to enable Members to discuss agenda item 11 - the Clerk’s annual review.

Signed.....

Date.....