

## **ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST  
ON TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Curry (in the Chair),  
Boyd, Eastaugh, Ewart, and Smith.

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Five Members of the Public.

### **9435 Public Forum**

The Chair welcomed five parishoners to the public forum and noted that no questions had been submitted ahead of the meeting.

### **9436 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Openshaw and Robinson.

### **9437 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Boyd declared an interest in respect of applications 241121 and 241162 as both applications pertained to neighbours of his.

### **9438 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

### **9439 Matters arising**

The Chair thanked Councillors Eastaugh, Openshaw and Robinson for re-siting the duck house back to the centre of the pond following its movement in recent high winds; and

It was noted that the two new dog bins located in Broadcommon Road and Lodge Road were now both overflowing and needed urgent emptying.

**9440 Vacancies on the Parish Council**

The Clerk noted that three vacancies remain – two in the Village Ward and one in Ashridge, leaving a significant shortfall in Councillors. The Clerk agreed to create a poster to be displayed on the parish noticeboards and website with a view to attracting potential candidates.

**9441 Borough Councillor Update**

The Chair was disappointed to note that none of the three Borough Councillors representing Hurst were in attendance.

**9442 Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. It was agreed that Members had no adverse comments with regards to applications 240640, 240159, 240976, 241162 and 241160. With regards to application 241121 there was insufficient evidence regarding bats and Councillors, therefore, could not comment.

Appeals were noted in respect of Poppies Farm, which the Chair noted had a long planning history, and Land adjacent to School Road and Orchard Road.

**RESOLVED:**

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

9443 **Finance**

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

		Main Fund**	CIL*	Neighbourhood Planning	Lodge Rd Appeal	Total
Previous Balance		£ 81874.88	142511.92	-5027.62	4634.14	223993.32
The following accounts are presented for approval this month:						
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Expenditure - Payee</b>					
3.1	C. Connell (Internal Audit)	200.00				
3.2	Thames Water (School Rd)	27.66				
3.3	NSALG (annual sub)	102.00				
3.4	Zurich (annual insurance)	1452.47				
3.5	5G (telephone)	41.28				
3.6	Salary	1420.82				
3.7	NEST (Pensions)	129.14				
3.8	HMRC	487.22				
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>3860.59</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3860.59</b>
	<b>Income</b>					
	Dunt Lane rent	80.00				
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>80.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>80.00</b>
	<b>Revised balance c/f</b>	<b>78094.29</b>	<b>142511.92</b>	<b>-5027.62</b>	<b>4634.14</b>	<b>220212.73</b>
** Historical accounting error of £1745.31 - adjustment advised by Internal auditor to b/f balance						

9444 Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24

The annual governance statement was approved by the Council and signed by the Chair.

9445 Annual Accounting Statement for 2023/24

The accounting statements were approved by the Council and signed by the Chair.

RESOLVED:

all payments were approved; and  
the annual governance statement and annual accounting statement for 2023/24 were signed by the Chair.

9446 **ROSPA Play Park Inspections**

The Clerk reported that Playdale (the manufacturers of the swings in School Road Playpark) had confirmed that the timbers were under warranty and could be replaced with no charge. However, there would be charges for delivery and installation and any upgrades required. The Chair expressed her desire to replace the two cradle seats for an inclusive basket swing.

Councillor Ewart and the Clerk are to meet to discuss the recent Playpark inspection reports and organise any remedial works required.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to obtain a quote from Playdale for the basket swing configuration; and

Councillor Ewart and the Clerk to do a playground walk around to ascertain the remedial work required.

**9447 Community Hub Update**

The Clerk confirmed that, following Glyn Crocombe's presentation at the March 2023 meeting of the Parish Council, she had heard nothing since. She reminded Members that if the project is to be funded by CIL monies there is a very real risk that monies could be recovered by WBC if not spent within the allocated time period.

Councillor Boyd asked whether, in addition to drawings of the desired new building, whether any costed proposals had been supplied. The Clerk confirmed that nothing had been received.

Councillor Smith asked if any other sources of funding had been pursued.

In conclusion, there appeared to be little known progress on the project and Councillor Robinson will be asked to pursue on behalf of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: Councillor Robinson be asked to progress the community hub project and report back.

**9448 Correspondence**

Dog Waste bins

The Clerk reported that WBC's dog waste contractor had no spare capacity to accommodate the two new bins in Broadcommon Road and Lodge Road. She had therefore sourced another contractor, Tactical Facilities Management, who provide similar services to a number of neighbouring Parishes. She was pleased to report that they had acted extremely swiftly and the bins would be emptied that evening.

S19 Report on flooding in Wokingham Borough on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

The Clerk had previously circulated to Members this WBC report for comment. She reminded Members that comments had been requested by the 14<sup>th</sup> June.

9449 **Information Reports**

Councillor Boyd reported that he had attended the recent meeting of the Northern Parishes Group which he had found informative. Those northern parishes who now have neighbourhood plans in place are finding them to be a useful tool when responding to planning applications within their parishes. Councillor Boyd suggested to Members that serious consideration should be given to rekindling the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group and finishing the significant amount of work which had already been undertaken. The Chair agreed to add this to the September agenda of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: Neighbourhood Planning Working Group to be added to agenda for September meeting of Parish Council; and  
Councillor Boyd to forward draft minutes to the Clerk for circulation to Members.

The meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....