

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST
ON TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2024 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors W. Smith (in the Chair), Curry, Ewart,
Jarvis, Palmer, Robinson and I Smith.

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Twenty nine Members of the Public.

9490 Public Forum

The Chairman welcomed twenty nine members to the public forum and noted that three questions had been submitted ahead of the meeting by Doctor and Mrs Lade. Mrs Lade presented her questions:

1. If the WBC Draft Local Plan is published shortly under Regulation 19 and includes Site 5HU030 on Broadwater Lane is the Parish Council prepared to issue a comprehensive objection to the allocation on the grounds of unsoundness because it is not in accordance with policies in the National Planning Policy Framework for the delivery of sustainable development? We can offer substantial information on the possible content if requested.
2. Shorewood Homes recently announced that they have exchanged contracts with Haines Hill for land north of Broadwater Lane as a potential residential site allocation for 12 houses. If an application is received before the draft Local Plan goes to Examination will the Parish Council send a more substantial letter of objection than was previously sent under Regulation 18, this time outlining all the material planning considerations affecting the site?
3. As the Parish Council now only meets every two months please advise as to the procedure for residents to request an extraordinary meeting sooner if Shorewood Homes submit an application before the next meeting or the draft Local Plan is published?

The Chairman replied with regards to questions 1 and 2 outlining that the Parish Council would not be able to provide any comment on their intended response ahead of receiving the actual planning application. This would be classified as pre-determination. Councillor Jarvis confirmed that this would be the case. The Chairman further explained that no one knows when the Local Plan will come out and, with both the local elections in May and purdah commencing late March, delays are likely.

Doctor Lade sought assurance that when the time for comment occurs, that the Parish Council would be providing a comprehensive objection. Again, the Chairman confirmed that he could give no assurance ahead of the official consultation.

With regards to question 3, the Chairman confirmed that only the Chairman or Councillors could call an extraordinary meeting. If members of the public felt a meeting was necessary they should contact their Councillor or the Clerk in the first instance.

Some additional discussions were held regarding flooding in the Parish and a parishoner put forward the argument that development should not occur where flooding continues to be an ongoing problem. The Chairman reported that he had met with the Borough's new Flood Officer in December and found him to be very good. The Chairman reminded the meeting that he had been pushing for a flood risk analysis for the past three years. He was well aware that some properties in Hurst find it difficult to get insurance because of the flood risks.

9491 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lyon.

9492 **Declarations of Interest**

There were none to declare.

9493 **Vacancies on the Parish Council**

The Chairman informed the meeting, with great sadness, that due to her increasing personal work commitments, Councillor Kate Beauchamp had stepped down from the Parish Council. He said that she would be missed enormously and thanked her for her invaluable contribution during her tenure. This now leaves a vacancy covering the Village Ward and the Clerk would liaise with Democratic Services to evoke the due procedure for advertisement.

9494 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th November 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

9495 **Matters arising**

The following matters arising from the previous minutes were noted:

Despite exploring numerous suppliers, it was likely that the previous quote of £1621.62 + VAT would need to be accepted for the bark top dressing at Martineau Playpark; and

The Chairman asked the Clerk to send thank you letters to all of those who contributed to another successful St Nicholas Night.

9496 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. It was agreed that Members had no adverse comments with regards to applications 232609, 232605, 232583, 232727, 232351, 232790, 232772, 232961, 232528, 233138 and 233151. Members objected to application 232684. An extension of time was requested to consider 232975.

Councillor Robinson presented his thoughts on application 230074 - he had been asked to provide initial comments on this application. He outlined a comprehensive set of objections and concluded that all of the Parish Council's previous objections with regards this site still stood. Councillor Curry noted that her Husband had taken a count of cars outside of the school that day and 31 cars were parked on School Road. Members agreed unanimously with the proposed objections.

The Clerk reminded Members that Fairview Farm was the subject of a public enquiry to be held on the 24th January 2024 (APP/X0360/C/22/3300653).

RESOLVED: the Clerk to communicate the Parish Council's planning comments to WBC and request of the Planning Officer an extension of time to consider application 232975.

9498 **Community Hub**

The Chairman understood that a meeting of the village halls was to take place later this month.

9399 **Neighbourhood Planning**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group, held on the 12th October 2023, were approved.

9400 **D Day 80th commemoration, 6th June 2024**

The Clerk reported that she had been approached by Winnersh Parish Council to see if there was any possibility of collaborative working and lighting of the village beacon on the 6th June 2024 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D Day.

Members felt that, given the potential changes which would arise from the May 2024 elections, they did not want to make a commitment to organising such a large scale event on behalf of potentially new members.

9401 **Correspondence**

Wokingham Local Transport Plan

The Clerk reminded Members that the previously circulated Wokingham Local Transport Plan consultation was live until the 23rd February 2024.

Power station at Martineau Green

The Chairman reported that he had met the previous week with SSE at Martineau Green regarding the siting of a new power station. SSE's desire to place the new station on the Green was not an option either residents or the Parish Council supported. The Chairman awaits further information from SSE which he will report back.

Dog waste bins

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by a resident of Lodge Road regarding antisocial behaviour in respect of dog waste outside their property. The resident had asked if an additional dog waste bin could be sited nearer the Whistley Mill end of Lodge Road. The Chairman reported that two additional dog waste bins were to be procured – one for Donkey Bridge at Broadcommon and one for Lodge Road.

Allotments

Councillor Curry noted that she will be asking allotments holders if any of them wish to reduce the size of their holding. She currently has six people on the waiting list and the smaller plots seem to remain very popular.

Site at Lodge Road

Concerns were expressed regarding the site at Lodge Road, adjacent to Whistley Court Farm. The Chairman explained that Enforcement Officers had visited the site on a number of occasions. He concluded that he did not know what the outcome would be.

Comments/observations from Councillor Paul Palmer

Councillor Palmer asked to speak to express his dismay at some of the discussion which had taken place that evening in the public forum. He felt disappointed that some members of the public were rallying support relating to specific applications and asking for support from the Parish Council. However, the same people had not objected to other, larger and higher density applications. He was left feeling personally perplexed and annoyed. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish has to work together and be aligned as one. Consistency in argument was crucial and he noted that, when the Parish does work collaboratively (e.g. in the case of the Lodge Road appeal) outcomes are achieved better together.

Councillor Palmer asked the Clerk to specifically note his comments as portrayed.

9402 Information Reports

There were none to bring to this meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....