

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST
ON TUESDAY 7TH MAY 2024 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors W. Smith (in the Chair initially),
Boyd, Curry (in the Chair, following election),
Eastaugh, Ewart, Openshaw (following co-option),
Robinson and I Smith (following co-option).

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Nine Members of the Public.

9417 Public Forum

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

9418 Election of Chairman

Councillor Wayne Smith invited nominations for a new Chair. Councillor Ewart nominated Councillor Curry. No other nominations were received. Seconded, Councillor Robinson. Agreed unanimously.

Councillor Wayne Smith handed his Chair to Councillor Curry and left the meeting. Applause of thanks was given for his long service to the Parish.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Curry is elected Chair for the current Municipal Year.

9419 To receive a declaration of office from the Chairman

Councillor Curry signed her declaration of office of Chair and this was witnessed and signed by the Clerk.

9420 Election of Vice-Chair

Councillor Curry proposed Councillor Boyd as Vice Chair. No other nominations were received. This was seconded by Councillor Ewart. Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Boyd is elected as Vice-Chair for the current Municipal Year.

9421 **To receive a declaration of office from the Vice Chair**

Councillor Boyd signed his declaration of office of Vice Chair and this was witnessed and signed by the Clerk.

9422 **Declarations of Interest**

There were none to declare.

9423 **Review of Committees and appointments to Outside Bodies:**

RESOLVED: that Members be appointed to the following bodies for the current Municipal Year:

Allotments – Councillors Curry.

Playing fields and open spaces – Councillor Ewart.

9424 **Appointments of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

RESOLVED: that Members be appointed to represent the Council as indicated:

Village Halls – Councillor Curry.

Neighbourhood Planning Working Group – Councillor Curry.

Northern Parishes Group – Councillor Boyd.

Community Hub project - Councillor Robinson.

9425 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th March 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

9426 **Matters arising**

It was noted that following the recent high winds, the duck house had become loose and drifted to the far end of the village pond. Councillors Robinson, Eastaugh and Openshaw agreed to resite it the following weekend.

9427 **Vacancies on Parish Council**

Following the May 2024 local elections, the Clerk confirmed that Hurst had an uncontested election with five people submitting nomination papers. This left five vacancies on the Parish Council to which Members were free to co-opt to. Ian Smith and Jono Openshaw had expressed their interest in being co-opted to the Parish Council. Members agreed unanimously to their co-option and both gentlemen joined the table. Three vacancies now remain.

9428 **Parish Council Meetings**

RESOLVED: twice monthly meetings to remain unless additional meetings need to be called. For example, June 2024 to enable the AGAR to be agreed and signed off.

9429 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. It was agreed that Members had no adverse comments with regards to applications 240590, 240640, 240718, 240810 and 240945. They objected to applications 240583, 240846 and 240996.

RESOLVED:

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

9431 **ROSPA Play Park Inspections**

The Clerk confirmed that the reports in respect of the three playparks had now been received and circulated. On the whole, the playparks are in good condition. However, the wooden swings located on the grass in School Road Playpark had been highlighted by the inspector as of high risk due to rotting timber posts. The Clerk had removed the chains and seats and the area taped off for safety.

Members briefly discussed replacement and the Clerk agreed to obtain some ideas and circulate.

It was noted that the goal posts in School Road need attention and the Clerk agreed to research replacement posts.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Council had tried for many years to secure a handy person to undertake ad hoc maintenance jobs within the Parish, such as painting of playground equipment. This had been unsuccessful and it was becoming increasingly difficult to source people willing to undertake this type of work. Ex Parish Councillor Paul Palmer had agreed he would be willing to undertake this type of work on an hourly basis, as and when projects arise. Members agreed unanimously to use him when needed.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to obtain some ideas and prices for replacement playpark equipment in School Road Play Park, including goal posts; and

Paul Palmer be used as the Parish Council's handy person, as and when required.

9432 **Correspondence**

Allotments

Councillor Curry noted that the allotment fences belonging to Places for People had been repaired.

Dog Waste bins

It was noted that the two newly installed dog waste bins were being well used but there was concern they had not been added to the inventory so ensuring they were being emptied. The Clerk would pursue with the contractor.

Councillor Wayne Smith

The Chair noted her enormous thanks to Councillor Wayne Smith for the amazing work and service he had dedicated to the Parish Council during his tenure. She said he would be sorely missed not only for his expertise but dedication. In his time he had spearheaded so many things which made Hurst what it is today. Councillors and the Clerk echoed her comments.

Parishoner, John Edwards

The Clerk noted her personal sadness at the passing of parishoner John Edwards and said he would be a huge loss to the Parish. Members remembered the endless projects he had dedicated his time to over the years and agreed he would be very much missed.

9433 **Information Reports**

Borough Councillor Updates

Following the May 2024 local elections, the Clerk welcomed three new Borough Councillors, Martijn Andrea, Martin Alder and Stephen Conway representing the Twyford Ruscombe and Hurst Ward. She would contact the gentleman and invite them to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....