

# **ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ON MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors W. Smith (in the Chair),  
Beauchamp, Curry, Holdstock, Lyon, Palmer,  
Robinson, I. Smith and Stephenson.

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Ten Members of the Public.

## **PART I**

### **9178 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ewart.

### **9179 Prejudicial Interest**

There were none to declare.

### **9180 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meetings held on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021 were both approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **9181 Matters Arising**

The following matters were noted:

- a proposal is awaited from Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) regarding the pedestrian crossing at Dinton Pastures/Davis Street;
- dumped glass recycling remains a problem at The Green Man public house;
- Councillor Holdstock confirmed that he had contacted the electrician with a view to works being completed at the youth shelter in School Road playpark. However, the electrician has now retired and an alternative tradesperson will have to be sought;

- an order has been placed with Playdale to complete the remedial playpark works following the ROSPA inspection in April. Lead time for works commencing is 8-12 weeks;
- following a number of issues, Lodge Road has now been resurfaced; and
- the commemorative bench has been delivered for the allotments. Councillor Curry will contact Mrs Janet Larkin to consider dates for an official unveiling. Thanks went to Councillors Holdstock and Robinson for completing the preparatory groundworks.

**RESOLVED:**

- Councillor Holdstock to source an alternative electrician; and
- Councillor Curry to contact Mrs Larkin.

**Public Forum**

9182 The Chairman welcomed ten members to the public forum and asked Councillors to introduce themselves. He then invited any questions from the public.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Mr John Osborne asked if the Parish Council would be minded to prepare and publish a list of its CIL priorities as he understood they now hold a certain sum of monies. Albeit, he recognised that the Parish Council publishes details of what has been spent and that it is not a legal requirement to provide details of planned expenditure, he believed that this would be good practice as residents wish to be informed as to what is planned.

The Chairman explained that a Part II item would be discussed that evening looking at a number of strategic matters going forward. He agreed with Mr Osborne that a strategy for expenditure was required and that the Council has always aimed to leave something in perpetuity for the village.

Councillor Lyon added that a number of smaller causes such as the school and church had been assisted with projects but agreed that the Parish Council would like to consider various ideas. The Chairman explained that CIL is only received when houses are built and that the large share of Hurst's CIL's related to houses built at Valley Nurseries. The Parish Council receives many requests to support projects initiated by WBC. However, the Parish Council would prefer to support projects directly within the Parish - he welcomed parishioners ideas as to how they believed CIL could best be spent.

The Clerk reminded everyone that in the monthly financial accounts, which are produced within the minutes, finances are split so indicating the monies held in the General Fund and those relating to CIL.

### Speeding on Hinton Road

A resident of Dalby Close expressed her concerns regarding the speed traffic travels down Hinton Road. This makes joining the main road, from Dalby Close, extremely hazardous. She asked if a mirror could be placed opposite to aid pulling out as she had noted various other mirrors located around the Parish. The Chairman reported the WBC Highways do not support mirrors and that any which have appeared have been installed by residents.

RESOLVED: the Chairman to enquire with WBC Highways as to whether mirrors can be permitted.

### 9183 **Neighbourhood Planning**

The Chairman reported that there appears to be some ongoing questions between the Local Plan (produced by WBC) and the Neighbourhood Plan. In terms of the Local Plan, he confirmed that the Grazeley option was no longer viable given the extension of the evacuation zone. WBC's new plan needs to go to 2038 and all sites across the Borough are being considered and master planning is underway.

In terms of Neighbourhood Planning, he explained that many people had been involved over the last three years but the group had lost many of these on the way. A small core team is now the driving force behind multiple reports which are currently being compiled. This task is enormous and requires extensive research and commitment. Councillor Curry added that the work undertaken by two particular members of the group was truly outstanding and they should be applauded for their efforts.

Mr Osborne commented that the work of the group appeared to be somewhat of a mystery with agendas and minutes and the make up of the group not being available or known. The Clerk explained that all of this information was on the Parish Council website with a clear link to the Hurst Plan. This details all agendas and minutes arising from 2018 along with the attendees at each meeting. Anyone was welcome and endless lengths had been gone to to attract and retain new members. She was very happy to speak to Mr Osborne out of the meeting to guide him to this information.

Reports are being drawn together and a meeting of the working group is planned for the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

### 9184 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these minutes. It was agreed that Members had no adverse comments with regards to applications 211940, 212385, 212124, 212421, 212489 and 212771. They had no comment regarding applications 212270, 212338 and 212640. Objections were raised in respect of applications 212123, 211803, 212214 and 212365.

Both applications 212724 and 212737 were with Councillor Holdstock and these would be further circulated for comments.

The Chairman noted that appeals had been lodged in respect of application are both Sawpit Road/School Road and Broadcommon Road. It is well reported that there is currently a backlog at the Planning Inspectorate. He assured everyone, however, that when the Parish Council is notified of the appeals there would still be the same amount of time in which to provide further representations if required.

Mr Jonathan Norris said he believed it truly extraordinary that when 47 objections had been raised in respect of the Sawpit Road/School Road proposed development, that no one at either the Parish Council or Hurst Village Society had noted that an appeal had not yet been informed. He would have expected both organisations to keep a watching brief on applications and their progress.

The Chairman said he is normally very mindful of pending appeals but had heard nothing regarding either of these cases. Councillor Lyon explained that the Parish Council has a very defined process which had successfully worked for many years. Immediately the Clerk receives notification of an appeal from WBC, she informs all Members. Members then have the opportunity to make further representations if considered appropriate.

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

## 9185 Finance

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

St Nicholas Hurst Parish Council - Meeting on the 6th September 2021									
Sep-21									
					Main Fund	CIL*	Neighbourhood Planning	Total	
Previous Balance					£	52204.42	125996.05	-2898.12	175302.35
The following accounts are presented for approval this month:									
Ref	Expenditure - Payee								
6.1	SLCC (GDPR Course MBradshaw)					36.00			
6.2	5G (monthly telephone July 2021)					30.71			
6.3	M Bradshaw (reimbursement for toner cartridges)					85.70			
6.4	BALC (BALC/NALC subscription)					496.74			
6.5	Thames Water (School Rd)					22.53			
6.6	J Earley (watering)					25.00			
6.7	SCS (grounds maintenance July 2021)					699.29			
6.8	5G (monthly telephone August 2021)					36.18			
6.9	M Holdstock (reimbursement for building sundries)					55.38			
6.10	SSE (phone Box)					46.36			
6.11	PKF Littlejohn (external audit)					360.00			
6.12	Street Furnishings Ltd (duck signage)					66.55			
6.13	M Bradshaw				Salary (July 2021)	1037.98			
					(Income Tax)	-8.40			
					(National Insurance)	-28.92			
					(Pension)	-41.52			
					Office	40.00	999.14		
6.14	NEST July (Employee pension £41.52 + Employer pension £31.14)						72.66		
6.15	HMRC July (Employee's Income Tax £8.40 & National Insurance £28.92)						37.32		
6.16	M Bradshaw				Salary (Aug 2021)	1037.98			
					(Income Tax)	-8.60			
					(National Insurance)	-28.92			
					(Pension)	-41.52			
					Office	40.00	998.94		
6.17	NEST Aug (Employee pension £41.52 + Employer pension £31.14)						72.66		
6.18	HMRC Aug (Employee's Income Tax £8.60 & National Insurance £28.92)						37.52		
6.19	Lyreco (stationery)						22.67		
6.20	SSE (School Rd)						58.05		
6.21	SCS (grounds maintenance Aug 2021)						699.29		
6.22	J Roxburgh-Smith (watering community orchard)						196.87		
						5155.56	0.00	0.00	5155.56
<b>Total Income</b>						0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Revised balance c/f</b>						47048.86	125996.05	-2898.12	170146.79

RESOLVED: all payments were approved.

## 9186 Village Gates

The Chairman reported that a quote had now been received from Volker Highways to repaint the village gates. The cost was £2808 (including £823 for temporary traffic lights) +VAT. He was also intending to seek a further quote to see if the pond railings could be painted at the same time the traffic lights were available. Members considered this price and thought it reasonable given the number of gates required and the necessity for any contractor to have a street licence and temporary lights.

RESOLVED: Volker Highways be commissioned to paint the village gates in the sum of £2808 + VAT.

9187 **Correspondence**

Pond

The Chairman reported two major issues with the village pond, namely; the broken drainage sited at the School Road side of the pond under the platoon and the volume of weed (believed to be New Zealand Piggy weed) located within the water.

As a result of the broken drainage, the Chairman had sought quotes from five separate contractors to repair the problem. However, no contractor was interested as the job was considered too small. The implication of the broken drainage is that water is not free flowing into the pond and therefore not aiding it filling.

With respect to the weed, a quote had been received to collect all of the weed up to a depth of 400mm at a cost of £520 + VAT. Additionally, 16 tonnes of weed would then be disposed of at a cost of £365 + VAT. Alternatively, the ecology Officer at WBC had advised to either cover the pond for a period of 18 months or use hot foam to treat the problem. Both alternative options are costly and were dismissed.

Members raised questions regarding the great crested newts in the pond. The Chairman had been advised that these would naturally migrate to the centre of the pond. However, he would check again with the Ecology Officer at WBC.

RESOLVED: the weed to be cleared and disposed of at a total cost of £885 +VAT.

Platinum Jubilee

The Clerk reminded Members of the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Councillor Palmer agreed to lead planning for the celebrations and would form a working group to assist.

### St Nicholas Night

To help support the Borough wide climate emergency, various options have been considered for a more environmentally friendly Christmas tree to be erected in the village centre. The Chairman reported that he had tried to source a living tree with a significant root ball but this could potentially be difficult to plant given the location of the site and underground utilities. Alternatives were discussed such as artificial trees.

St Nicholas night would go ahead on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and the Clerk would make the usual arrangements with the various on going supporters of the evening.

RESOLVED:

- other options for a Christmas tree to be explored; and
- the Clerk to contact Waltham St Lawrence Band, Chocoholics, the Revered Graham Theobald and the Hurst Singers.

### Tree cutting at Church Hill

Various complaints had been received by the Parish Council following WBC's felling of the hedgerows and trees up Church Hill. Large branches had been left dangerously protruding with some in the road.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to contact Richard Bissett, WBC to get resolved.

### War Memorial

A quote in the value of £1100 had been received to complete repairs to the War Memorial located at St Nicholas Church.

RESOLVED: repairs to be completed in the value of £1100.

### Noticeboards

The Chairman reported that a revised quote, in the value of £3991.37 + VAT, had now been received to replace the noticeboards sited at Forest Road, Davis Street, Lodge Road and the Village Halls – this had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting. Once permission was sought from the owner of the property at Forest Road the order would be placed.

RESOLVED: order to be placed for four new noticeboards in the value of £3991.37 + VAT (subject to owner permission at Forest Road).

Remembrance Sunday

RESOLVED: the Clerk to order two poppy wreaths ahead of Remembrance Sunday Service.

Autumn Litter Pick

The Chairman confirmed that the Autumn litter pick was planned and that he would be sending out a sperate note with details. Cones need to be placed around pickers to ensure safety.

**9188 Information Reports**

Accident at Church Hill

The Chairman updated Members regarding the recent accident on the bend of Church Hill. This had involved a hit and run car which sped into the two cottages causing both external and structural damage. The incident had been extremely distressing for the residents involved. The Chairman had met at the site with Thames Valley Police. Various options were discussed with Members and the Public Forum giving their suggestions. One way systems, road narrowing and other measures were considered. The Chairman noted that any changes would need the unanimous agreement of the village.

RESOLVED: that by virtue of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business ("Future Strategy") under Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm.

Signed.....

Date.....