

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD VIRTUALLY (VIA GOOGLE HANGOUTS) ON
MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

9018 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence. All those on the call were visible and audibly clear.

9019 Prejudicial Interest

There were no prejudicial interests to declare.

9020 Vacancy for a Parish Councillor (Village Ward)

The Chairman explained that, following the co-option of Mrs Lou Robinson, the process had been deemed void by Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) electoral services as the vacancy had not been advertised for fourteen days. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council believed, because of the interest expressed by three candidates, a co-option had been made with the belief that a correct and proper process had been followed. As 10 electors have now requested an election, the filling of the vacancy for the village ward would now be delayed until May 2021 at the earliest in line with current Coronavirus legislation. Mrs Lou Robinson had been advised of the situation.

9021 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th July 2020 were approved as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman at the first available opportunity.

9022 **Matters Arising**

The following matter was noted:

The current coronavirus pandemic means that virtual meetings are continuing to be recommended by professional bodies. Physical meeting would not enable suitable social distancing should large members of the public participate. In addition, Hurst has no sufficiently large physical venues. Although the public forum is poorly attended, parishoners need to be given the opportunity to virtually join the call and raise questions in the public forum. Going forward, Microsoft Teams will be pursued as an option to enable the public/press to join the call in the public forum.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to set up Microsoft Teams for the next meeting of the Parish Council. This will be published via the website, public notices and Twitter.

9023 **Public Forum**

The Clerk confirmed that no questions, in writing, had been received from any members of the public ahead of this meeting.

9024 **Covid 19 Update**

The Chairman updated Members that WBC offices will remain closed, in part, to the public for some foreseeable time.

9025 **Neighbourhood Planning**

The Chairman explained that a sub group of the Working Group has been established to look at policies which need to be incorporated into Hurst's neighbourhood plan. Other similar published plans are being examined to ascertain what polices are commonly included, what need writing specifically for Hurst and which are non-applicable. The group is due to meet towards the end of September to discuss.

9026 **Church Hill Petition**

The Chairman confirmed that the works remain scheduled but delayed due to the pandemic. He had no further update.

9027 **Howard Larkin Memorial**

Since the sad loss of Councillor Larkin in April 2020, Councillors have been considering a suitable permanent memorial within the Parish. The Chairman confirmed that he wished to meet with Councillor Larkin's wife to discuss the various options and seek her thoughts.

RESOLVED: the Chairman to meet Mrs Larkin.

9028 Planning Applications

Members considered the applications attached to these minutes. They had no adverse comments with regards to applications 201540, 201394, 201959 and 201881. They had no adverse comments regarding application 202015, however, observations were made. No comments were made regarding applications 201515 and 201583. However, observations were made regarding the former should permission be granted.

The Chairman noted no live or pending appeals or hearings.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to communicate all comments to WBC.

9029 Finance

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

Sep-20									
						Main Fund	CIL*	Neighbourhood Planning **	Total
	Previous Balance				£	47092.47	133407.59	-2808.12	177691.94
	The following accounts are presented for approval this month:								
Ref	Expenditure - Payee								
6.1	Freestyle (Signs for Davis St Playpark)					220.80			
6.2	Advantage Printroom (Signs for playparks)					100.80			
6.3	Jessica Earley (Plant watering June 2020)					32.50			
6.4	Thames Water (School Road)					23.38			
6.5	SCS (Grounds maintenance June 2020)					629.72			
6.6	James Roxburgh-Smith (Watering at community orchard)					110.00			
6.7	PKF Littlejohn (External audit)								
6.8	M Bradshaw	Salary (July 2020)	1037.98						
		(Income Tax)	-8.40						
		(National Insurance)	-29.52						
		(Pension)	-41.52						
		Office	40.00						
		Phone	25.00			1023.54			
6.9	HMRC July (Employee's Income Tax & National Insurance)								37.92
6.10	SCS (Grounds maintenance July 2020)					629.72			
6.11	Southern Electric (School Rd)					45.74			
6.12	Southern Electric (Phone Box)					34.93			
6.13	M Bradshaw (Reimbursement for repair to phone box)					17.64			
6.14	M Bradshaw	Salary (August 2020)	1037.98						
		(Income Tax)	-8.40						
		(National Insurance)	-29.52						
		(Pension)	-41.52						
		Office	40.00						
		Phone	36.70			1035.24			
6.15	Jessica Earley (Plant watering July 2020)					32.50			
6.16	NEST July (Employee pension £41.52 + Employer pension £31.14)					72.66			
6.17	HMRC August (Employee's Income Tax £8.40 & National Insurance £29.52)					37.92			
6.18	NEST August (Employee pension £41.52 + Employer pension £31.14)					72.66			
						4157.67	0.00	0.00	4157.67
	Income								
	Dunt Lane rent (August 2020)					79.77			
	Dunt Lane rent (Sept 2020)					79.77			
	Total Income					159.54	0.00	0.00	159.54
	Revised balance c/f					43094.34	133407.59	-2808.12	173693.81

RESOLVED: all payments in respect of this month were approved.

9030 **Correspondence**

Dog Waste Bins

It was noted that the dog waste bin located at the village halls had been overflowing and was too small. Consideration was given to either locating a larger bin or speaking to the waste disposal contractor to increase the frequency of collection.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to investigate the best solution.

Community Orchard

The Clerk reported that one of the two bins ordered for the community orchard had arrived damaged. A replacement bin is awaited. In the meantime, thanks was given to Councillor W. Smith and Holdstock for the installation. Councillor Stephenson noted the particularly dry weather of late and passed his grateful thanks on to James Roxburgh-Smith for watering the orchard trees.

Hurst Village Halls

The Chairman reported that going forward it is very difficult for the Parish Council to secure the large village hall for Parish Council meetings. He noted that the Phillip Martineau Trust originally set up the halls for the use of the community. Councillor Curry replied that the halls are extremely well used and that this is pleasing albeit frustrating when not always available.

9031 **Information Reports**

There were no reports to bring to this meeting.

The virtual meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....