

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST
ON MONDAY 6th January 2020 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

Councillor Michael Firmager, Wokingham
Borough Council (in part);
Mr Fraser Cottington, Lavell's Wetland Trust (in
part); and
One Member of the Public (in part).

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PART I

8921 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

8922 Prejudicial Interest

There were no prejudicial interests to declare.

8923 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd December 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8924 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Public Forum

8925 The Chairman welcomed Mrs Lou Robinson who was in attendance.

8926 Councillor Michael Firmager, Chairman, Borough Parish Liaison Forum

The Chairman welcomed Borough Councillor Michael Firmager, Chairman, Borough Parish Liaison Forum to the meeting. Councillor Firmager explained to Members his aim to engage with the Parish and Town Councils to ensure a meaningful and useful Liaison Forum and greater communication. He welcomed ideas from Members as to how the forum, which meets four times a year, could be enhanced.

Discussion revealed a common trend of themes with concerns being shared across various Councils regarding speeding, policing and crime. Councillor Firmager reiterated that key speakers are sought to attend the forum to discuss specific issues and Members considered that an advanced agenda would be helpful to highlight what would be featured. Councillor Lyon noted that some opportunities had arisen for Councillor training which was often run by the larger Town Councils. These were welcomed but often ad hoc.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to summarise Councillors' suggestions and pass on to Councillor Firmager.

Councillor Firmager thanked Members for their time and left the meeting at 8.48pm.

8927 Fraser Cottington, Chief Visionary Officer, Lavell's Wetland Trust (LWT)

The Chairman welcomed Fraser Cottington, Chief Visionary Officer, LWT to the meeting. Mr Cottington passionately explained to Members the ongoing work and vision of the Trust. They hope to secure further land which can be preserved for the benefit of all. He was pleased to report that grants totalling £57.5k had been received from Network Rail and Thames Water and this has helped significantly with the work the Trust has been able to complete. The Trust are now keen to gain further support and increase their current membership of 440 and recurring revenues. The Chairman encouraged Mr Cottington to apply to the Parish Council for a grant. Members were enthused by the work being achieved which is of direct benefit to the environment and the Parish.

Members asked whether LWT visit local schools and provide wider talks to the public which promote their work. Mr Cottington confirmed that this is their ambition and, along with an enhanced website, interactive engagement is their vision for the future.

Members considered that LWT should reach out to the Hurst Village Society (HVS) and WBC with a view to promoting their work and encouraging membership. The Clerk agreed to provide contact details for Mr Cottington.

RESOLVED:

- the Clerk to provide Mr Cottington with contact details for both HVS and WBC; and
- LWT to formally make a grant application to the Parish Council for consideration in March 2020.

The Chairman thanked Mr Cottington for an inspiring insight into the Trust's work and Mr Cottington left the meeting at 8.25pm.

8928 Neighbourhood Planning

The Clerk confirmed that the completed questionnaires are being analysed by Bell Cornwell. A report was hoped for before Christmas but due to staff sickness this has been delayed to an estimated mid – January. As soon as the report is received, feedback sessions for parishoners will be held in early February 2020.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to chase Bell Cornwell to ascertain the likely date for the report issue. A venue will then be booked for feedback sessions.

8929 Church Hill Petition

The Chairman confirmed that Senior Officers within WBC are actively being chased for a progress update.

8930 Planning Applications

Members considered the applications attached to these minutes. They had no adverse comments with regards to applications 192677, 193131, 192906 and 193269. They had no comment regarding applications 193184 and 193255.

Discussions were held around applications 193069 and 192560. Members had various objections relating to both applications. Comments will be drafted and forward to the Clerk for communication to WBC.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to communicate all comments to WBC.

Mrs Lou Robinson left the meeting at 8.55pm.

Community Speed watch – Hurst Road

The Clerk had previously circulated to Members an e-mail received from a gentleman concerned with the speeding issue on the Hurst Road in Twyford. He had suggested two options of either a speed check sign near the 'Welcome to Twyford' sign on Hurst Road and/or the setting up of a Community Speed Watch scheme for Hurst.

The Chairman confirmed that he had spoken to the gentleman that afternoon and had agreed to place the vehicle activated smiley face sign near the locations discussed. The gentleman confirmed that he would be willing to assist with any monitoring. The Chairman had explained to him the previous issues encountered with Community Speed watch and the lack of success to date for a variety of reasons. He suggested that the gentleman forwarded his concerns directly to the Police.

8933 Information Reports

There were no reports to bring to this meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m. to enable Part II items relating to the Local Plan to be discussed. Press and Public excluded.

Signed.....

Date.....