

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD VIRTUALLY (VIA GOOGLE HANGOUTS) ON
MONDAY 6th July 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).

9004 Apologies for Absence

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

9005 Prejudicial Interest

There were no prejudicial interests to declare.

9006 Vacancy for a Parish Councillor (Village Ward)

The Chairman confirmed that three candidates had expressed an interest in filling the vacancy which currently existed for a Councillor covering the village ward. Following the sad loss of Councillor Larkin, it was noted that a large void is left with regards to planning expertise amongst councillors. Councillor Larkin represented the Parish Council at numerous planning appeals and it was felt vital that any replacement, should vitally be able to bring planning expertise.

The Clerk had previously circulated the applications to Councillors and the Chairman explained the background to all three candidates. Debate followed and Councillor Curry expressed the opinion that not only should the candidate have good planning knowledge but also the confidence to speak on behalf of the Council at planning appeals etc.

The Clerk asked for a visible raising of hands and a vote was taken. Eight Members voted for Mrs Lou Robinson to be duly co-opted. Councillor Turvey abstained.

RESOLVED: Mrs Lou Robinson was duly elected to the Parish Council with immediate effect, covering the village ward.

9007 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st June 2020 were approved as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman at the first available opportunity.

9008 **Matters Arising**

The following matter was noted:

Councillor Stephenson confirmed that he had spoken to the coach who runs training sessions for children out of Davis Street Playpark. He is a football coach and does not charge for the sessions he holds. Councillor Stephenson reminded him of not kicking balls at the neighbouring fencing. Councillor Mansfield has now acquired signage and this will be installed imminently.

9009 **Public Forum**

The Clerk confirmed that no questions, in writing, had been received from any members of the public ahead of this meeting. A concern had been received from a parishoner that the public could not join the call virtually. The Clerk explained that given the closed nature of using Google Hangouts (as all Members use Google accounts), additional e-mail addresses could not be added whereby "visitors" could come in and out of the call. It was re-emphasised, in these unprecedented times, that questions should be made in writing to the Clerk ahead of the meeting.

9010 **Covid 19 Update**

The Chairman updated Members that the playparks in the Parish were not yet re-opened but would be opening in accordance with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) guidance over the next couple of weeks. The Clerk would arrange signage to be put up in all playparks advising of social distancing and good hygiene.

9011 **Neighbourhood Planning**

The Chairman explained the extensive work which had been undertaken by the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group in response to WBC's consultation on Local Green Spaces. Researched and detailed character assessments for potential Local Green Spaces had been produced identifying a number of sites.

The Chairman explained that, if the Parish Council agreed, the character assessments would be forwarded to WBC for them to consider. Discussion pursued after which Members voted unanimously to forward these sites to WBC.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to forward the character assessment reports to WBC.

9012 Church Hill Petition

The Chairman confirmed that he was waiting on WBC to advice as to when the works would be undertaken. They are scheduled but he did not know an expected start date.

9013 Grounds Maintenance

The Chairman reported that the community orchard is currently being very well used which is pleasing to see. More frequent cutting of the grass is required to maintain a suitable length during the summer months. Members agreed that this was reasonable. It was pleasing to note the wildflower areas developing around the perimeter of the orchard.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to liaise with SCS to ensure summer cutting of the community orchard is more frequent.

9014 Planning Applications

Members considered the applications attached to these minutes. They had no adverse comments with regards to application 201009. No adverse comments were made regarding applications 201316, 201077, 201282 and 201418. However, observations were to be made should WBC be mindful to grant permission. Application 201288 was objected to.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to communicate all comments to WBC.

9015 Finance

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

Jul-20									
						Main Fund	CIL*	Neighbourhood Planning**	Total
	Previous Balance				£	50002.14	133407.59	-2808.12	180601.61
The following accounts are presented for approval this month:									
Ref	Expenditure - Payee								
4.1	W Smith (expenses re: Youth Shelter paint)					54.60			
4.2	Glasdon (2 no. waste bins for community orchard)					876.34			
4.3	Southern Electric (Phone Box)					46.27			
4.4	Southern Electric (School Road)					56.87			
4.5	SCS (monthly landscaping)					660.44			
4.6	J Earley (watering)					35.00			
4.7	Fencing Products (1 no. replacement bench for Davis Street)					162.00			
4.8	M Bradshaw								
				Salary (June 2020)	1037.98				
				(Income Tax)	-8.60				
				(National Insurance)	-29.52				
				(Pension)	-41.52				
				Office	40.00				
				Phone	25.00	1023.34			
4.9	HMRC (Employee's Income Tax & National Insurance)					38.12			
4.10	NEST (Employee pension £41.52 + Employer pension £31.14)					72.66			
						3025.64	0.00	0.00	3025.64
	Income								
	Allotment rent (late payments)					40.00			
	Dunt Lane rent (July 2020)					75.97			
	Total Income					115.97	0.00	0.00	115.97
	Revised balance c/f					47092.47	133407.59	-2808.12	177691.94

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

9016 **Correspondence**

Management of Tape Lane Allotments

Following the May 2020 meeting of the Parish Council and Councillor Curry's offer to take over the role of Allotment Manager, the Clerk reported that she had been contacted by one of the allotment holders. The allotment holder felt it only fair that the allotment holders had a say in who managed the allotments. The Clerk had explained that Councillor Curry was extremely keen to work with the allotment holders to identify any issues namely matters relating to rent increases, facilities, managements of plots and investment in the allotments. Members felt it helpful to have a Parish Councillor who could act as a direct conduit between allotment holders and the Parish Council. In the event of any unresolvable disputes, the Clerk should be the primary point of contact.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to assist Councillor Curry in obtaining information relating to plot holders and waiting lists. Councillor Curry to organise a meeting with allotment holders as soon as possible.

Hurst Village Halls

Councillor Curry reported that the Village Halls are hoping to re-open in September 2020 but nothing can be confirmed at this stage.

9017 **Information Reports**

There were no reports to bring to this meeting.

The virtual meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....