

## **ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD VIRTUALLY (VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS) ON  
MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: One member of the public.

### **9045 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pilgrim. All those on the call were audibly clear.

### **9046 Prejudicial Interest**

There were no prejudicial interests to declare.

### **9047 Minutes**

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

### **9048 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **9049 Public Forum**

The Chairman welcomed Maggie Sanderson to the public forum. Mrs Sanderson raised issues as below and requested that:

- Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) replace the signage stating "Side Road Ahead" on the left hand side of the A321 going south as one approaches Islandstone Lane. She noted that this had been demolished a while ago; and
- the seven black and white warning signs "Edge of Carriageway Marker/Road Edge Marker Posts" which used to be on the edge of Orchard Road north side be replaced. She believed that the camber on Orchard Road, the volume of traffic and the water filled ditch between the road and the field would justify this.

RESOLVED: the Chairman to refer to WBC for attention.

**9050 Covid 19 Update**

The Chairman noted that England would go into a further month long lockdown commencing on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The impact within the Borough will inevitably be felt once more and the mental health of residents is of concern. Support groups will be reinstated within Hurst with volunteers on standby to help the most vulnerable. The Chairman said he had received many queries from businesses querying whether they qualify as being “essential”. Marshalls will be deployed across the Borough.

It was noted that events such as the Remembrance Day parade will be cancelled. The Parish Council will, however, place wreaths at both St Nicholas Church and on the Forest Road.

Councillor Turvey queried whether playgrounds would be closed. The Chairman confirmed that clarification was being awaited from WBC.

**9051 Neighbourhood Planning**

The Chairman confirmed that the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group would be meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to discuss policies; significant work had been undertaken on these.

**9052 Church Hill Petition**

The Chairman confirmed that he had no further update from WBC and hoped that the latest pending lockdown would not cause delay to the works.

**9053 Howard Larkin Memorial**

The Chairman confirmed that he had sourced both a bench and signage for the allotments. The main gate needs replacing and he is seeking a quote from the Parish Council’s landscape contractor. The Chairman agreed to meet with Councillor Curry, Allotment Manager, and Mr Paul Martin, an allotment holder of many years, to discuss plans for the allotments. It was noted that some landscaping works are required and these are to be discussed. Feedback will be provided at the December meeting of the Parish Council.

Additionally, it was noted that Councillor Larkin used to hold tours of the allotments for local school children. Councillor Curry agreed to ask Mr Martin if he would be happy to take on this role.

RESOLVED: the Chairman, Councillor Curry and Mr Paul Martin to meet at the allotments to discuss potential works and school tours.

#### 9054 **Speeding Device**

The Chairman reported that he had undertaken a number of spot checks with the portable “smiley face” sign assisted by local resident Mr Paul Palmer. Checks had been undertaken within the last few weeks at Whistley Green, Lodge Road, Forest Road and Davis Street. Once again, results concur with the last seven years of data collected by the speed device regularly placed around the Parish by Councillor Mansfield.

The Chairman was saddened to report that the four highest recorded speeds captured on Forest Road were committed by residents of Hurst. Councillor Turvey noted that speeding is a very emotive subject particularly in roads such as School Road where the school is based. Communication is key and he felt that residents had to be reminded once more that they are sometimes part of the problem and need to be part of the solution. The Chairman reiterated that endless communication had been produced by HVS but still the message was failing to get through to all.

The Chairman sought the Parish Council’s support in purchasing a new device. The device would be similar to that recently purchased by Ruscombe Parish Council for which they have received positive public feedback. The sign indicates a motorist’s speed, indicates a smiley or sad face and is permanently erected at a site. It comes with three mounting plates which enables easy manoeuvring around the village to different locations.

Discussion ensued with Members being supportive of such a device. However, Councillor Stephenson said he could not support a purchase until he had seen the full specification for the proposed sign.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to circulate the specification for the device and seek agreement to its purchase.

#### 9055 **Planning Applications**

Members considered the application attached to these minutes. They had no adverse comments with regards to applications 202556, 202325, 202551, 202552, 202528 and 202490. Objections were made regarding application 202584.

The Chairman noted no live or pending appeals or hearings.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to communicate comments to WBC.



- Highways - Provision of new EV charge points to support uptake of Electric Vehicles. This will support the ambition to be net-zero carbon by 2030. Sites and exact details to be developed; project is scalable depending on funding available and subject to assessment of power availability in some areas.

Members felt that they were unable to support either bid without further information; namely, financials.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to revert back to WBC requesting financials upon which a decision can be based.

### Bulb Planting

The Chairman suggested that bulbs could be planted throughout the village so enhancing the village in the Spring. Members agreed that this was a good idea and volunteers would be sought to plant them. Boston Bulbs, previously used, can supply 5000 bulbs for £350.

Additionally, the Rotary Club have agreed to donate crocus bulbs to be planted near the Village Pond. They have requested that a plaque be erected stating the doner. Members agreed that a small plaque would be acceptable for a limited period of one year.

RESOLVED: 5000 daffodil bulbs to be purchased.

### St Nicholas Night

It was noted that St Nicholas Night would be cancelled this year due to the pandemic. However, the Chairman confirmed that a tree would be erected. Albeit, Haines Hill has confirmed they do not have a suitable tree to donate this year, the Chairman is liaising with them to seek their assistance with the erection of a tree from elsewhere. Lifting equipment is essential for the safe erection of the tree which remains the centrepiece of the village at Christmas time.

### Crossing at Dinton Pastures

The Chairman reported that he is awaiting the Engineer's report regarding the proposed location of the crossing at Dinton Pastures. There were originally three potential options and he is seeking clarification as to how a decision regarding siting has been reached. Councillor I. Smith commented that it would be helpful if the crossing could be installed by next Summer when pedestrian footfall is at a height.

9058 **Information Reports**

There were no information reports to bring to this meeting.

The virtual meeting ended at 8.58 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....