

# **ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ON TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Sixteen Members of the Public.

## **9222 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Holdstock.

## **9223 Prejudicial Interest**

Councillor Wayne Smith declared an interest pertaining to the matter to be discussed in the public forum. He noted he had no legal or financial interest in the matter but was the Wokingham Borough Council's (WBC) Executive Member for Planning and Enforcement. He would, therefore, hand the Chair temporarily to Vice-Chair, Councillor Lyon, to lead this discussion.

## **9224 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> December were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **9225 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes. The Clerk expressed her thanks to Mr Duncan Kendall for his assistance in the Microsoft 365 transition which was currently taking place.

## **Public Forum**

9226 The Vice Chairman welcomed sixteen members to the public forum. One request to address Members had been submitted in writing prior to the meeting.

### Request to speak, Ms Deborah Pleace

The Vice Chairman invited Ms Pleace to address Members. Ms Pleace had previously circulated to the Parish Council, a paper relating to the WBC Draft Local Plan Revised Growth Strategy – Site 5HU002, Land next to Whistley Green Cottage, Hurst.

Following her statement, the Vice Chairman asked Members if they had any matters to raise. He reminded Members, that the sites in question in respect of the LPU were:

- 12 houses - Land North West of Hogmoor lane (5HU030);
- 3 houses - Land adjacent to Whistley Green Cottage, Whistley Green (5HU002); and
- 45 houses - Land North of London Road and East of the A329m (5HU051).  
5HU002 (3 houses),

Councillors raised a number of issues and discussion ensued.

Councillor Beauchamp thanked both Ms Pleace and Mrs Lade for the information they had provided on both sites 5HU030 and 5HU002 – she had found this information very helpful. She noted the challenge ahead and the national shortage of houses which presents a country wide problem. However, she felt that the right houses had to be in the right places, with local needs being addressed.

The Vice Chairman noted that people frequently say they like the look of Hurst and want it to stay that way. He concluded that there were a number of pros and cons to be considered, in addition to historic information. He noted that the consultation period ended on the 24th January 2022.

Mr Usher, asked to speak in respect of correspondence he had previously submitted to the Parish Council. The Vice-Chairman agreed to this.

Mr Usher introduced himself as the Son of the Owner of Site 5HU006, Land North of Orchard Road, colloquially referred to as “Willowmead”. He explained that the site has been promoted for development in the Draft Local Plan and explained how the site should not be assessed as suitable as a Local Green Space or an Asset of Community Value.

He felt aggrieved that his family have been previously silenced when they’ve wanted to engage and feel that the situation is being manipulated. Additionally, he believed that the recent TPO’s which had been placed upon Willowmead had been initiated by the Parish Council. Councillor Wayne Smith confirmed that this was not the case and that the Parish Council had played no part in this. Councillor Wayne Smith recommended that Mr Usher sent his comments to Mr Belling at WBC. Mr Usher confirmed that he had already done this.

Councillor Beauchamp thanked Mr Usher for his correspondence. She reported that development is an emotive subject and believed it vital that Mr Usher's family were heard that evening. There had to be transparency and she hoped that Mr Usher had seen the Parish Council that evening working and listening to all parties.

Mrs Carr Osborne asked if Members could speak louder to enable the public forum to hear more clearly. She also requested that the Councillors' desks be arranged differently to enable greater audible clarity.

The Vice Chairman concluded an extended public forum which had to be drawn to a conclusion to enable the remaining agenda to be started.

RESOLVED: the Parish Council would be considering its response and submitting it to WBC before the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

The Chairman resumed the Chair.

#### 9227 **Neighbourhood Planning**

There was no update to bring to this meeting.

#### 9228 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these minutes. They had no adverse comments relating to applications 213759, 214090, 214123, 214118, 214152, 214159 and 214169. They had no adverse comments relating to application 213996, however, some observations were made. They objected to applications 213865, 213935 and 213949.

It was noted that an appeal has now been lodged in respect of Land at junction of Sawpit Road (211532) - the Parish Council concluded that they had no further representations to make in addition to their original objections.

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

9229 **Finance**

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

Jan-22									
						<b>Main Fund</b>	<b>CIL*</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Planning</b>	<b>Total</b>
Previous Balance					£	58683.10	123541.22	-2898.12	179326.20
The following accounts are presented for approval this month:									
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Expenditure - Payee</b>								
10.1	M Bradshaw	(reimbursement for first aid kit)				19.99			
10.2	Thames water	(School Road)				26.52			
10.3	St Nicholas Church	(Youth Club)				500.00			
10.4	W Smith	(St Nicholas expenses)				97.45			
10.5	5G	(monthly phone)				31.61			
10.6	Ashridge Manor Farm Nursery	(Christmas tree)				350.00			
10.7	Don Ruffles Ltd	(office shredder)				379.14			
10.8	Information Commissioner's Office	(annual registration)				40.00			
10.9	WBC	(accident data for neighbourhood plan)						490.00	
10.10	SCS	(monthly grounds maintenance)				699.29			
10.11	M Bradshaw	Salary (Dec 2021)		1037.70					
		(Income Tax)		-8.40					
		(National Insurance)		-28.88					
		(Pension)		-41.51					
		Office		40.00		998.91			
10.12	NEST Dec	(Employee pension £41.51 + Employer pension £31.13)				72.64			
10.13	HMRC Dec	(Employee's Income Tax £8.40 + National Insurance £28.88)				37.28			
<b>Total Expenditure</b>						<b>3252.83</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>490.00</b>	<b>3742.83</b>
						<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>						<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Revised balance c/f</b>						<b>55430.27</b>	<b>123541.22</b>	<b>-3388.12</b>	<b>175583.37</b>

Budget 2022/23

The draft budget for 2022/23 was presented to Members. Members discussed the budget in detail and agreed unanimously to set a budget for 2022/23 at £48,400 with a precept of £48,400. Allowing for a higher rate of inflation, it was noted that the budget for the forthcoming year would be tight.

CIL funds

The Chairman updated Members regarding the ongoing desire of the Parish Council to assist with the replacement of the dilapidated Scout Hut with a new purpose built Community Hub building. This concept was first discussed by the Parish Council over two years ago with a view to providing a facility which would inclusively accommodate the needs of the entire community whilst being left in perpetuity for the village. The desire would be to install a building with a 50% greater footprint than the existing building which could be a genuine community space for Hurst.

The Chairman confirmed that he had held preliminary meetings with the Hurst Village Halls and Air Scouts who were both keen to support the project. The aim would be to help part fund the new building using the CIL monies the Parish currently has available. Members agreed unanimously that this would be a very suitable use of such funds.

RESOLVED:

- all payments were approved;
- final budget for 2022/23 agreed at £48,400 with precept the same; and
- CIL funds to be earmarked to support the building of a new community hub.

## 9230 Correspondence

### Willowmead Field

Ahead of this meeting, the Clerk had circulated to Members an e-mail sent by the Son of the Owner of Willowmead Field (Site 5HU006). Discussion pertaining to this had been covered (Minute 9226).

### Matters raised by a Parishioner

The Clerk reported that she had received e-mail correspondence from a parishoner regarding the following matters:

- the pending review by WBC of ditches and gullies: the Clerk noted that it was not helpful, at this stage, for Hurst Village Society (HVS) to call for the help of parishoners with this review. She did not yet have the details of the review, when it was starting or whether parishoner help would be required. The Parish Council would inform, as they received details from the Borough Council;
- use of CIL monies: the Chairman had outlined plans (see Minute 9229); and
- accuracy of Parish Council minutes (November 2021): the parishoner had queried the accuracy of the November 2021 minutes.

RESOLVED: to better understand the Parishoners concerns, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would meet with them.

### Statement by Councillor Tony Robinson

Councillor Robinson read from a statement which outlined his concerns pertaining to the November 2021 meeting of the Parish Council and subsequent allegations made by Mr John Osborne regarding the passing of confidential parish council information from Councillor Robinson to his wife. Councillor Robinson wished it to be placed on record that the information in question was freely available on the HVS website and he was not the source.

In addition, Councillor Robinson noted that some of Mr Osborne's language was personal and unnecessary.

Mr Osborne requested a "point of order" from the Chairman. The Chairman allowed Councillor Robinson to conclude his statement.

Councillor Robinson ended by thanking the Clerk for her professionalism and work.

### Defibrillator (Ashridge Ward)

The Chairman reported that residents of Ashridge Ward had raised £900 with a view to purchasing a defibrillator for situation outside the Nursery located on the Forest Road. He felt that it would be appropriate to match fund this fantastic effort and asked for Members support in approving this motion. Agreement was unanimous.

RESOLVED: £1000 to be match funded from reserves to enable the purchase of a defibrillator for Ashridge Ward. The Clerk to work with the Lilly May Page Trust to source the most appropriate defibrillator.

### Platinum Jubilee

Councillor Palmer updated Members with regards to the Platinum Jubilee Plans. He sought approval for a £7000 budget (which would be offset against food, drink and sponsorship over the bank holiday weekend) to pay the deposit for staging and equipment.

Councillor Palmer was thanked for help with planning this major community event.

RESOLVED: expenditure approved and the Clerk to pay the deposit for staging and equipment.

Bottle banks located at The Green Man Public House

Councillor Ewart expressed her embarrassment after meeting WBC's operative at the recycling site at the Green Man recently. She was ashamed of the mess and overflowing glass which had been dumped despite signage being in place. She felt it reflected very poorly on the Parish. The Chairman acknowledged the problem which he too had witnessed on many an occasion. Once again, alternative sites were discussed with the Village Halls being dismissed because of the danger of broken glass near the pre-school.

9231 **Reports for Information Only**

There were no reports to bring to this meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.59pm.

Signed.....

Date.....