

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
ON MONDAY 7TH JUNE 2021 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Maggie Sanderson and Carol Sheasby.

9150 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

9151 Prejudicial Interest

There were none to declare.

9152 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 24th May 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Councillor Lyon thanked the Clerk for a very comprehensive and accurate minuting of the question/answer session arising from the presentation by Leaper Land and Rural Solutions.

9153 Vacancies for Parish Councillors

The Clerk reported that, following the previous Parish Council meeting, Councillor Watt had resigned with immediate effect. She gave no reason for her resignation. This now leaves five vacancies on the Parish Council, all covering the Village Ward. The Clerk confirmed that a notice had been placed on the Parish Council notice boards and the website since the 1st June 2021 seeking new Members for co-option.

9154 **Matters Arising**

The following matters were noted:

- Councillor Curry confirmed that she had raised with the Hurst Village Halls Committee whether bottle banks could be placed in the car park. The response was not favourable for the health and safety reasons previously discussed. Councillor I. Smith queried whether the overflow car park in Sandford Lane (opposite Dinton Pastures) could be a suitable venue. Councillor Lyon suggested a collaborative approach with Twyford Parish Council with a view to a site at Stanlake Park being sourced. The Chairman agreed to further discuss with WBC;
- the Chairman confirmed that he is still awaiting a quote from Volker Highways to paint the village gates; and
- the Chairman confirmed that he was meeting with WBC the following week and would ask for a progress update on the pedestrian crossing at Davis Street/Dinton Pastures entrance.

RESOLVED: The Chairman to follow up on:

- suitable alternative bottle bank sites;
- Volker Highways quote for painting village gates; and
- the pedestrian crossing at Davis Street/Dinton Pastures.

Public Forum

9155 The Chairman welcomed two members to the public forum. Both confirmed that they were attending in an observatory capacity and had no specific issues to raise.

9156 **Neighbourhood Planning**

The Chairman confirmed that there was no update to give although work was continuing. He noted his disappointment in the dwindling number of volunteers now working on the plan. A group of over 40 willing volunteers had now diminished to a handful.

9157 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these minutes. It was agreed that Members had no adverse comments with regards to applications 211646 and 211699. They objected to application 211420. Application 211634 was still to be reviewed.

Following on from the last Parish Council meeting Members revisited discussions relating to the proposed installation of an 18m phase 8 monopole to be located at land at Broadwater Lane. Mrs Sanderson noted that such masts are needed for good connectivity. However, the location was not considered suitable for the reasons previously discussed. It was noted that most providers will wish to site a mast on Highways land.

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

9158 Town and Parish Charter

The Clerk had previously circulated to Members the draft Town and Parish Charter which had been drawn up by WBC to encourage an understanding of joint, collaborative working between the Borough and Town/Parish Councils. Members concurred with some concerns raised by other Parish Councils, that the charter had to reflect both sides. WBC would need to respond to Town/Parish queries in the same way the Town/Parishes are expected to react. The Chairman noted unsatisfactory service, particularly from WBC's Highways Department. Members concluded they felt unable to sign the Charter until this feedback was provided to WBC.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to provide feedback to WBC.

9159 Finance

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

Jun-21					Main Fund	CIL*	Neighbourhood Planning	Total
Previous Balance					£ 60938.58	132996.05	-2898.12	191036.51
The following accounts are presented for approval this month:								
Ref	Expenditure - Payee							
3.1	J Earley (watering)				25.00			
3.2	M Bradshaw (reimbursement for basketball replacement nets)				15.48			
3.3	St Nicholas Youth Club (annual donation)				500.00			
3.4	Lyreco (stationery)				38.80			
3.5	Lyreco (sanitising products & Covid signage)				44.58			
3.6	SCS (monthly grounds maintenance)				699.29			
3.7	SSE (Phone Box)				51.31			
3.8	SSE (School Rd)				45.05			
3.9	M Bradshaw							
				Salary (May 2021)	1037.98			
				(Income Tax)	-8.60			
				(National Insurance)	-28.92			
				(Pension)	-41.52			
				Office	40.00			
					998.94			
3.10	NEST May (Employee pension £41.52 + Employer pension £31.14)				72.66			
3.11	HMRC May (Employee's Income Tax £8.60 & National Insurance £28.92)				37.52			
					2528.63	0.00	0.00	2528.63
Total Income					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Revised balance c/f					58409.95	132996.05	-2898.12	188507.88

9160 **Correspondence**

Youth Shelter

It was noted that the lighting in the youth shelter in School Road Playpark needs to be looked at by an electrician.

RESOLVED: Councillor Holdstock to arrange.

Community Orchard Cutting Schedules

The Clerk informed Members that she had been contacted by a parishoner asking for the grass in the community orchard to remain long with only pathways to the benches being defined. The Parishoner did not feel that the orchard had the feeling of a community orchard as it was too manicured. The Chairman confirmed that he had conversely received complaints about its length. Discussion followed and Members agreed that the purpose of the orchard had to be defined and further thought needed to be given to the "look" and "use". The grass is currently being kept short for the purposes of hosting the Hurst Show at the end of June but, thereafter, Members would revisit this issue.

Playpark inspections

The Chairman confirmed that, following the recent ROSPA playpark inspections, he had visited all of the playgrounds along with the Clerk to look at the work required. Given the age of the equipment, significant work is now required to bring the equipment up to standard including paintwork, cleaning and various replacement parts. The recessing wetpour in School Road playpark is of particular concern and has been referred back to Playdale Playgrounds. Holes need filling with top soil.

A quote has already been sought from Playdale Playgrounds for various items for School Road playpark and this was already in the value of £2k. Additional power cleaning in all of the parks is £280. The Clerk has replaced the damaged basketball net in Davis Street playpark.

Councillor Curry noted that she felt it important for the playgrounds to provide some further items of inclusive equipment for less physically able children. Members agreed that this would be very worthwhile. Councillor I. Smith recommended that new play equipment should be financed from CIL monies with maintenance works covered from annual revenue budgets.

RESOLVED:

- power cleaning to be commissioned in the value of £280;
- the Chairman to meet a representative of Playdale Playgrounds on site and seek further clarification regarding the work required;
- the Clerk to obtain quotes for some items of inclusive play equipment;
- the Clerk to ask other Town/Parish Clerks if they can recommend a painter with a street licence; and
- quotes for top soil to be gained from SCS.

9161 **Information Reports**

There were none to bring to this meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....