

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST
ON MONDAY 9th March 2020 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

One Member of the Public.

Kate Warren, Wokingham Borough Council
(WBC) (in part).

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

8946 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Larkin and I. Smith.

8947 Prejudicial Interest

There were no prejudicial interests to declare.

8948 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd February 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8949 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Public Forum

8950 The Chairman welcomed Kate Warren from WBC's Localities Team and her colleague to the meeting. Kate explained that she is responsible for four geographical areas within the Borough, including Hurst. Her remit includes responsibility for fly tipping/abandoned vehicles and environmental matters. Discussions were held regarding "Adopt a Street" which has good support within the Parish. Councillor Lyon indicated that Lodge Road is a problematic area for rubbish but parishioners are fearful to assist because of the dangers of speeding traffic. This issue was reiterated within other areas of the Parish. It was noted that, as ditches become blocked with floodwater, rubbish rises to the surface making the problem of litter more visible.

Councillor Stephenson asked whether WBC look at the drains on a regular basis. Kate explained that there is a drainage team and the Chairman confirmed that he had been out with officers to three locations to indicate the problems.

Additionally, Councillor Stephenson indicated his concerns with regards to the footpath which runs from Davis Street across the old golf course at Dinton Pastures. The path needs to be clearly shown by means of signage indicating the line.

Kate encouraged Members to report any issues directly to her team. The Chairman thanked WBC Officers for their time and they both left the meeting at 7.50pm.

8951 Neighbourhood Planning

The Chairman confirmed that a public feedback session had been held in the Village Halls the previous Friday evening. It had been attended by approximately fifty parishoners. The Chairman had presented the findings of the questionnaires which have now all been posted onto the Parish Council website.

8952 Church Hill Petition

The Chairman confirmed that he had no further update at this stage.

8953 Planning Applications

Members considered the applications attached to these minutes. They had no adverse comments with regards to applications 200195, 200145, 200281 and 200323.

Discussion was held around application 200378. Councillor Stephenson indicated his initial concerns which primarily related to the increased volume of potential car parking and what he believed to be the inadequate size of the proposed café. Further consideration was needed of both this application and 200372. Comments would be provided to the Clerk in due course.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to communicate all comments to WBC.

- The usual donation of £200 was awarded to Hurst Village Society as a contribution to newsletters.

8955 **Annual Review of Policies**

The Clerk reminded Members of the Councils duty to ensure its policies were up to date and covered all areas. She urged Members to refresh themselves by referring to current policies which required adhering to. A new "Social Media" policy has been drafted which will be circulated for approval in April 2020.

8956 **Purchase of Speed Detection Device**

Councillor Mansfield reported that, despite best endeavours, the existing speed detection device has passed its useful economic life and has been failing. He has sought advice from the suppliers and it is now beyond repair. Members agreed that the work Councillor Mansfield does within the Parish is invaluable and, to that end, a new device should be procured.

RESOLVED: a new speed detection device to be procured in the value of £2500.

8957 **Correspondence**

Wildflower Meadow at Community Orchard

The Chairman confirmed that he had continued his talks with a local expert with a view to wildflower areas being planted in the community orchard. Councillor Pilgrim said she would be happy to lead on the project as this was an area of particular interest to her.

Footpath at St Nicholas CE Primary School

The footpath running through the playing field at St Nicholas CE Primary School was discussed. Councillor Turvey asked whether CIL monies could be used to assist with the aim of getting the footpath redirected. The Chairman confirmed that funds had already been secured. A new kissing gate is being installed by The Loddon Valley Ramblers and this has been funded by HVS. The case is being presented to The Planning Committee at WBC.

Scout Hut

Councillor Curry confirmed that she had discussed the scout hut with the Village Halls Committee and whether a new community facility could be joint funded for multi-use, including being the home of the Scouts. The question was raised as to how much CIL monies the Parish Council could donate. At this very early stage, it was not able to be quantified. Such a project would need buy in and support from a number of parties and significant project management to bring to fruition.

8958 **Information Reports**

There were no reports to bring to this meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m. to enable a Part II item to be raised with respect to the Local Elections in May 2020.

Signed.....

Date.....