

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD VIRTUALLY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
ON MONDAY 5th JULY 2021 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Annette and Jeremy Lade, Christine Lambert, Jo
Newbold, Adrian Noskwith, John Osborne and
Maggie Sanderson.

9162 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lyon.

9163 Prejudicial Interest

There were none to declare.

9164 Vacancies for Parish Councillors

Five vacancies currently exist, all covering the Village Ward. The Chairman confirmed that six applications had so far been received from candidates along with their reasons for wishing to join the Parish Council. These had been circulated to Members. The Clerk had redacted their names. A further update would be given once the 14 working day period had lapsed in respect of the vacancy notice currently being advertised.

9165 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7th June 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9166 **Matters Arising**

The following matters were noted:

- Leaper had contacted the Chairman asking if they could do an in-person presentation regarding their proposed application at Broadcommon Lane. The Chairman felt that the timing of this would not be appropriate until such time they had an application to present;
- Volker Highways will require a traffic management system to undertake the painting of the village gates. The Chairman will request a quote from them. Mrs Newbold, Chair of Hurst Village Society (HVS), asked when they would hopefully be done. The Chairman confirmed that, from the point a traffic regulation is applied for, its usually approximately 6 weeks. He anticipated a September/October 2021 start ;
- the Chairman confirmed that he had met with the Head of Highways at Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) to discuss the pedestrian crossing proposals at Davis Street/Dinton Pastures. He is awaiting a proposal from them;
- it was noted that glass recycling continues to be dumped at The Green Man public house and is often overflowing despite being emptied on a weekly basis. Miss Lambert asked whether it would be viable to install CCTV cameras to ascertain the culprits. The Chairman confirmed that it is not Council land and therefore this was a decision he could not make. He would, however, mention it to the appropriate officers at WBC. Councillor Curry noted that it would be a great shame if this facility were to be lost. Additional sites are still being considered;
- Councillor Holdstock confirmed that he would contact the electrician in respect of the youth shelter;
- comments continue to be received regarding the community orchard. The Chairman confirmed that it is difficult to please all parishoners with some wanting the field cut short and others wanting it left wild. He suggested that the Council waits until it has a full count of new Members and then a collective view can be taken as to how best to proceed;
- power cleaning of the play parks has been completed;
- Lodge Road is due to be imminently re-surfaced; and
- the Clerk confirmed that she had circulated various quotes regarding inclusive items of play equipment for School Road playpark. Members confirmed that the cradle style swing would be a good addition, subject to a risk assessment and liaison with neighbours.

RESOLVED:

Councillor Holdstock to liaise with electrician regarding Youth Shelter lighting; and

the Clerk to arrange an assessment with Playdale and liaise with neighbours as appropriate.

Public Forum

9167 The Chairman welcomed six members to the public forum and invited any questions they may have. Mrs Lade asked if she could read a statement to Members regarding housing in Hurst, specifically Site 5HU030, Land north west of Hogmoor Lane.

Mrs Lade noted that the WBC Draft Local Plan is currently under review and that she hoped that Members and the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group would consider supporting her request to withdraw site 5HU030, Land north west of Hogmoor Lane. She proceeded to read a statement outlining the reasons for why she considered the site to be wholly unsuitable. She noted the public consultation had resulted in 41 objections from local residents to the inclusion of the site for development in the plan. In conclusion she noted that the continued inclusion of the site in the Draft Local Plan would be viewed as representing failure to apply proper planning processes consistently within Hurst. She asked Members to review all of the information available and be minded to support its withdrawal from the WBC Draft Local Plan.

The Chairman informed that the site will be reassessed along with all other sites once master planning has been completed. All new information will be considered.

Mrs Newbold, spoke on behalf of the HVS. She noted that HVS would like to see transparency and consistency- matters which were raised at their last AGM. She asked for the support of the Parish Council in working together and demonstrating joint engagement. She asked that HVS's letter to WBC be circulated to the Parish Council.

The Chairman asked Members to reflect on Mrs Lade's statement. Evaluations will take place in early August 2021 with a draft plan being submitted to the Executive in September. Consultation will begin in October 2021.

RESOLVED: the Parish Council's further comments, in light of new information, will be submitted to WBC within approximately the next two weeks.

Discussion was briefly held regarding the September meeting of the Parish Council. Mr Noskwith asked if the Parish Council would be meeting in person. The Chairman confirmed that this was the hope subject to finding suitably large accommodation to cater for social distancing.

9168 Neighbourhood Planning

The Chairman confirmed that there was no update to give although work was continuing. It was hoped that the next meeting of the Group would be in September 2021.

9169 Planning Applications

Members discussed the applications attached to these minutes. It was agreed that Members had no adverse comments with regards to applications 211690, 211988 and 211949. They had no adverse comments relating to application 212001 but would be making an observation. Applications 211871 and 211916 were still being reviewed by Councillors.

The Chairman updated that the application with regards to the telecommunications mast at Whistley Green had been refused and that a more suitable site needs to be sourced to ensure the coverage required.

The Chairman noted that the only appeal at present is with regards to Ashridge Manor Garden Centre, Forest Road.

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

9170 **Finance**

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

Jul-21									
					Main Fund	CIL*	Neighbourhood Planning	Total	
Previous Balance					£	58409.95	132996.05	-2898.12	188507.88
The following accounts are presented for approval this month:									
Ref	Expenditure - Payee								
4.1	5G (monthly telephone)					33.26			
4.2	Wicksteed (replacement cradle seat)					162.76			
4.3	SLCC (CILCA registration M. Bradshaw)					410.00			
4.4	MBradshaw (reimbursement for key cutting)					7.00			
4.5	W Smith (reimbursement for cradle seat sundries)					33.52			
4.6	SCS (compost area at allotment)					3145.92			
4.7	W Smith (reimbursement for play park paint)					61.16			
4.8	SCS (monthly grounds maintenance)					699.29			
4.9	Richard of Hurst (playpark power cleaning)					280.00			
4.10	St Nicholas Church (donation towards parish room refurbishment)						7000.00		
4.11	J Roxburgh-Smith (painting at Davis St and watering at Orchard)					137.50			
4.12	Playdale (Engineer inspection at School Rd)					126.00			
4.13	MBradshaw				Salary (June 2021)	1037.98			
					(Income Tax)	-8.40			
					(National Insurance)	-28.92			
					(Pension)	-41.52			
					Office	40.00	999.14		
4.14	NEST June (Employee pension £41.52 + Employer pension £31.14)						72.66		
4.15	HMRC June (Employee's Income Tax £8.40 & National Insurance £28.92)						37.32		
						6205.53	7000.00	0.00	13205.53
Total Income						0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Revised balance c/f						52204.42	125996.05	-2898.12	175302.35

RESOLVED: all payments were approved.

9171 **ROSPA Play Park Inspections**

The Clerk updated Members following the latest ROSPA annual playpark inspections. Sites at School Road, Martineau Green and Davis Street had all been inspected. The Chairman reminded Members that the equipment at School Road was installed nearly thirteen years ago and, as a result, items are beginning to show signs of wear and require expenditure to repair/replace.

Following receipt of the reports which had been circulated to Members previously, the Clerk and Chairman had visited all three sites to ascertain the extent of repairs required. A quote had been received from Playdale to address the concerns at School Road playpark.

Members considered a quote from Playdale in the value of £5578.65 + VAT. Additionally, they considered two quotes from SCS in the total value of £2464.44 + VAT to undertake landscaping and fencing repairs at the three playpark sites and the allotments. The allotment work involved preparation of the site and strimming to enable the Howard Larkin Commemorative bench to be suitably placed.

Councillor Curry agreed to ask the allotment holders when best to hold an event to mark the unveiling of Howard Larkin's bench.

RESOLVED: Members approved expenditure of £8043.09 + VAT to cover both the Playdale and SCS quotes; and

Councillor Curry to liaise with allotment holders regarding a date to hold the unveiling of Howard Larkin's bench.

9172 **Correspondence**

Membership of NALC/BALC

The Clerk recommended to Members that the Parish Council would benefit from joining the National (NALC) and Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC). The organisations work at both a national and local level supporting and advising councils on many aspects of administration and providing assistance on recommended best practice. Membership benefits also includes training opportunities for both Clerks and Members and access to libraries and resources.

Annual membership of BALC is £370.60 and NALC £126.14.

RESOLVED: Member agreed unanimously expenditure of £496.74 to join both NALC and BALC.

Metal Detecting Policy

The Clerk had previously circulated to Members a Metal Detecting Policy. This policy was written to accommodate recent activity in the School Road Playpark where the ground was being dug up. The Clerk was aware of other such instances which had recently occurred in neighbouring Parishes.

REOSLVED: the Metal Detecting Policy agreed and will be uploaded to the website.

Speeding within the Parish

The Chairman confirmed that the Police had been out twice within the last week undertaking speed checks. The majority of cases remain as being perpetrated by residents of the parish.

The Chairman reminded Members of previous liaison with the Police where the Parish Council part funded a speed device with a view to Police support being given within the Parish. Additionally, the Parish Council has undertaken in excess of 50 speed tests and sent data to the Police. Despite the Parish Council's best endeavours it remains hard to build good Police relationships with ever changing personnel.

Discussion allowed and parishoners asked whether speed humps, chicains or traffic lights in certain "hot spot" areas could be considered. The Chairman reminded the meeting that Hurst is a geographically large parish and that an alternative may be average speed cameras. On a positive note, the "smiley face" speed device had made a difference with speed checks in Lodge Road indicating an average speed of 33mph.

The Chairman confirmed that he would be, the following week, driving around the Parish with our latest Police Officer highlighting to him the problem areas.

Mrs Newbold thanked the Chairman for the work he was doing and agreed that a joint approach from both the Parish Council and HVS would certainly be of positive benefit.

Signage within the Parish

The Chairman confirmed he would be meeting with Highways and discussing signage and highways issues round the Parish. The Clerk agreed to update the Chairman with any information she and been provided with regarding damaged/missing street signage.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to provide the Chairman with an updated list of damaged/broken signage reported to her.

9173 **Information Reports**

There were none to bring to this meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.39pm.

Signed.....

Date.....