

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON TUESDAY 7th DECEMBER 2021 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: Twenty two Members of the Public.

9211 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Holdstock.

9212 Prejudicial Interest

There were no interests to declare.

9213 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd November were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9214 Matters Arising

The Chairman thanked all of those involved in St Nicholas Night which had taken place the previous Sunday evening and had been a great success. Particular thanks were given to Chris Zeal of Haines Hill, Chocoholics, Waltham St Lawrence Silver Band and Richard Hardy.

Public Forum

9215 The Chairman welcomed twenty two members to the public forum. Two questions had been submitted in writing prior to the meeting.

Question one, submitted by Mrs Annette Lade

The Chairman invited Mrs Lade to address Members. Mrs Lade had previously circulated to the Parish Council, a comprehensive paper relating to the WBC Draft Local Plan Revised Growth Strategy – Site 5HU030, Land Northwest of Hogmoor Lane, Hurst and Site 5HU002, Land next to Whistley Green Cottage, Hurst. Following her statement, the Chairman noted that the consultation period ends on the 24th January 2022 and the Parish Council would be considering its response ahead of this.

Question Two, submitted by Ms Deborah Pleace

Ms Pleace's question had previously been circulated to Members asking "Regarding the LPU, we note the Parish Council wrote to WBC in August regarding Site 5HU030. This site and ours, 5HU002, were assessed as a group and both remain part of the Revised Growth Strategy. Please clarify the Parish Council's position in regards to 5HU002 and confirm that we will be given equal opportunity to make statements in support to those seeking to object".

The Chairman responded that there would be opportunity to comment and urged Ms Pleace that if she had any technical questions these should be directed to one of the WBC drop in sessions.

9216 Hurst Village Society

This agenda item had been moved to follow the public forum to accommodate the speaker who arrived at 7.45pm. The Chairman welcomed Mrs Jo Newbold, Chair of Hurst Village Society (HVS) and Mr Andrew Wilson from HVS. PC Adam Young was unable to attend the meeting. Mrs Newbold thanked Members for the opportunity to present to them.

Mr Wilson presented to Members the strategy which had previously been circulated relating to HVS proposed traffic calming framework for the village. He hoped it would be a starting point for engagement/conversation and consultation with the community. Following the presentation, he asked if Members or the Public had any questions.

Mrs Carr Osborne queried the financing of the proposals. Mr Wilson responded that he believed the vision was a strategy which he hoped could be financed between contributions from the Highways Authority, Parish Council, Police and fund raising. He had not costed the proposals at this stage. He did, however, see the strategy as a good use of public money and believed the strategy would be supported.

Dr Jeremy Lade added that, having lived in the village for many years, he had only ever witnessed one accident and believed that physical interventions to the road infrastructure can often cause unforeseen problems. Such interventions cause problems for emergency service vehicles and those with physical injuries such as bad backs. Additionally, pollution to neighbouring properties is caused every time a vehicle “stop/starts”. Whilst supportive of the 30mph proposed speed limit, he believed the rest of the strategy was an overkill. He felt it important for parishioners who live in the “outer” boundary to consider the potential impact of their comments on those living in the “inner” boundary.

Another parishioner added that she frequently felt unsafe walking and jogging down roads which have no pavements. She engineers her walks around less busy times of the day to avoid traffic. She asked Mr Wilson whether he had looked into the lack of pavements in some areas in the village. He responded that he had not.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that local councils are currently not in a strong financial position. He referenced the difficulties being experienced in Wokingham Borough, particularly with an ageing demographic and financial pressures on adult social care. He did not believe that WBC would have funds to finance anything non urgent. He referred to costings and indicated that, with an average pedestrian crossing and associated electrical and infrastructure works, costing in excess of £100k, monies did not stretch far.

He reminded the meeting that as part of the Neighbourhood Planning process, a full, evidence based, transport model would be undertaken by experts who would know what was achievable. Once this is completed, parishioners would be able to comment.

Members had no further questions.

9217 **Neighbourhood Planning**

The Chairman welcomed Mr John Edwards who was present to update Members regarding the cost of professional consultants who would be needed to help complete the Neighbourhood Plan. He explained that expertise, at the following estimated costs, would be needed:

- Mapping - £1k;
- Landscape and Character assessment - £5k;
- Transport, traffic and travel - £6k-7k; and
- A number of smaller miscellaneous reports including write up of the final report - £3k.

In total, he believed funding of approximately £15k would be required from the Parish Council over the next eighteen months.

9218 Planning Applications

Members discussed the applications attached to these minutes. They had no adverse comments relating to applications 213483, 213503, 212852, 213515, 213653, 213321 and 213139. They had no adverse comments relating to application 213516, however, some observations were made.

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from a parishoner regarding the appeal which had been lodged in respect of the proposed 5G telecommunications mast (211667). The parishoner had queried whether the Parish Council would be making any further representations to the Inspector. Members agreed that their original objections stood and did not believe any further representations were required. (211667).

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

9219 Finance

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

Dec-21				Main Fund	CIL*	Neighbourhood Planning	Total
Previous Balance				£ 63066.50	125996.05	-2898.12	186164.43
The following accounts are presented for approval this month:							
Ref	Expenditure - Payee						
9.1	J Earley (correction to Nov 21)			-12.50			
9.2	Parish Noticeboards Company (4 no. noticeboards 50% deposit)				2454.83		
9.3	Lily May Page Foundation (donation for defib. training)			200.00			
9.4	SLCC (reference book)			52.30			
9.5	Castle Water (allotments 1/9/21-28/2/22)			150.65			
9.6	Wokingham BC (election costs reclaim from May 21 elections)			225.00			
9.7	Country Care Southern Ltd (pond dredging)			624.00			
9.8	M Bradshaw (reimbursement for cake)			14.99			
9.9	W Smith (reimbursement for flowers)			30.00			
9.10	McAfee (LiveSafe virus protection)			69.99			
9.11	P Curry (reimbursement for St Nicholas Night)			108.45			
9.12	SLCC (annual subscription 2022)			171.00			
9.13	SLCC (reference book)			123.80			
9.14	SSE (Tape Lane Phone Box)			68.92			
9.15	W Smith (reimbursement for St Nicholas Night tree expenses)			123.57			
9.16	Street Furnishings Ltd (Signage and cones for St Nicholas Night)			193.11			
9.17	Grabloader Ltd (pond clearance)			432.00			
9.18	SCS (monthly grounds maintenance)			699.29			
9.19	M Bradshaw	Salary (Nov 2021)	1037.70				
		(Income Tax)	-8.40				
		(National Insurance)	-28.88				
		(Pension)	-41.51				
		Office	40.00	998.91			
9.20	NEST Nov (Employee pension £41.51 + Employer pension £31.13)			72.64			
9.21	HMRC Nov (Employee's Income Tax £8.40 + National Insurance £28.88)			37.28			
Total Expenditure				4383.40	2454.83	0.00	6838.23
				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Revised balance c/f				58683.10	123541.22	-2898.12	179326.20

Funding request from Youth Club

The Chairman reported that he had been approached by the youth club request financial support. They now have access to a Youth Worker which is also used by Twyford and require £500 to support this until the year end (i.e. 31/3/21). Members were unanimously supportive of providing for youth.

Migration to Office 365

Following Members desire to migrate from a Gmail platform, to an Office 365 platform, the Clerk reported that she had sought quotes from three providers. She had also spoken to neighbouring colleagues to ascertain which providers they used and to what extent they would recommend them. She explained that she had shortlisted two companies (both currently used by neighbouring Parish Councils). Whilst costs were similar, she favoured one of the companies which is far more locally based.

Members agreed that the decision should be based upon recommendation and practicalities as well as cost. As the cost was arbitrary they concluded that the company more locally based should be engaged at a set up cost of £650 +VAT and monthly on going costs of £50.

Draft Budget 2022/23

The Clerk presented to Members the draft budget for 2022/23. The Chairman referred Members to analysis of other WBC Parishes and their Band D precepts. It was agreed that Members would consider the budget for agreement at the January 2022 meeting of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED:

- all payments were approved;
- £500 to be given to the Youth Club;
- IT-QED be engaged with to provide Office 365 migration and ongoing IT services; and
- Members to consider the draft budget over the Christmas break period for agreement in January 2022.

9220 **Correspondence**

Letter from HVS re: CIL

The Clerk had one item of correspondence to raise. Mr John Osborne, on behalf of HVS, had written to the Parish Council proposing suggestions as to what CIL monies could be spent on. The Clerk had circulated his letter to Members the day of receipt. The Chairman confirmed that, as part of the budget setting process, the Parish Council would be considering all priorities going forward and what will be spent in the forthcoming year.

Surface Management

The Chairman reported that Hurst is next on the list for the surface management plan. All drains and ditches will be looked at and work will start imminently. The aim is that Officers will meet with the Parish Council and travel around the parish identifying problems.

Crossing at Dinton Pastures

The Chairman reported that the crossing at Dinton Pastures is anticipated to cost in the region of £120-£140k. Precise costings are awaited along with timelines for completion.

Pond

Broken drainage pipes at the village pond are due to be repaired. Once completed, the pontoon and bench area can be assessed and any necessary remedial works costed.

9221 **Reports for Information Only**

There were no reports to bring to this meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

Signed.....

Date.....