

# **ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST  
ON TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JULY 2024 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Curry (in the Chair),  
Boyd, Eastaugh, Ewart, Openshaw, Robinson and  
Smith.

Borough Councillors Alder and Andrea (in part).

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Thirteen Members of the Public.

## **PART I**

### **9450 Public Forum**

The Chair welcomed thirteen parishoners to the public forum and noted that no questions had been submitted ahead of the meeting. She reminded everyone present that, at the point the Part I of this meeting ended, the public would be excluded, along with the Clerk. This would enable Part II to be conducted.

### **9451 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Borough Councillor Conway.

### **9452 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest declared.

### **9453 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

### **9454 Matters arising**

The Clerk and Councillor Ewart to agree a date for follow up on the Rospa playground inspection reports.

9455 **Vacancies on the Parish Council**

The Clerk reported that notices had gone on both the parish notice boards and the website encouraging people to join the Parish Council. Three vacancies remain.

9456 **Borough Councillor Update**

The Chair welcomed both Borough Councillors Alder and Andrea to the meeting and said that the Parish Council very much looked forward to working with them. Both gentlemen introduced themselves and explained their positions within the Borough Council and both as Parish Councillors for Twyford Parish Council. Councillor Andrea noted particularly that he sits on the Planning Committee at Wokingham and therefore would be unable to enter into discussions pertaining to planning applications. Borough Council activity is, at present, at a minimum in the lead up to the pending General Election.

Discussion pursued with regards to the Local Plan Update (LPU) and timings. A member of the public noted that literature currently being circulated in respect of plans at Ashridge were flawed and he shared his concerns regarding this.

Councillor Boyd noted that with the General Election taking place on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024, the political landscape could change. Borough Councillor Alder agreed that, short term, there remained a long list of priorities to deliver and he was not confident that planning laws would be changing imminently.

Councillor Boyd asked whether the existence of a Neighbourhood Plan in Twyford had been helpful. The Borough Councillors concluded that it has and helps the Parish have a say. Councillor Robinson challenged this and quoted what was presented to the Planning Committee in respect of development North of the A4. In this case the Planning Officer had not taken on board the Neighbourhood Plan.

A member of the public asked whether the LPU would go to Regulation 19 in July 2024. The Borough Councillors concluded that Borough Councillor Conway would be best placed to provide an update on the LPU. Borough Councillor Andrea tried to reassure that, to the best of his knowledge, Hurst did not feature in the emerging Local Plan. He believed that the vote would go to Full Council potentially in August 2024, although this may slip to September 2024.

The Chair confirmed that she would be meeting with Borough Councillor Conway that coming Monday.

Borough Councillors Alder and Andrea left the meeting.



#### 9460 **Playparks**

The Clerk reported that she had obtained two quotes in respect of a replacement swing unit in School Road Playpark. She explained that she had obtained pricings for a metal framed structure which would provide greater longevity than the wood frame equivalent. She was currently seeking two further quotes for comparison purposes. Members agreed that a metal structure would be sensible and that budgetary provision was sufficient to cover the costs currently expected.

The Clerk reported that she had been approached by a Parishoner to ask if she could run a bootcamp/exercise class out of School Road Playpark. Members noted that similar requests had been received many years ago and had not been pursued. However, in a quest to support healthy living, Members were keen to support the idea. The Clerk confirmed that neighbouring Parishes support similar activities and charge a monthly fee for the hire. The Clerk asked Members for their approval on the basis that the hirer provided evidence of both her Public Liability insurance and first aid qualification. They agreed to an initial trial.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to obtain two further quotes, evaluate and then make a recommendation to Councillors to approve supplier; and the Council to agree to an initial trial of exercise classes in School Road Playpark subject to suitable timings and frequency, plus insurance and first aid requirements being met.

#### 9461 **Community Hub Update**

Councillor Robinson provided an update from Glyn Crocombe of the Hurst Village Halls. He was pleased to report that the project was now gathering some momentum and he would provide regular updates. The estimated grand total for the project, based upon the timber building designs previously circulated, is £243k plus VAT. However, this is based on only one initial quote and more would have to be sought and evaluated. The Council agreed that a detailed project proposal/paper would be required to be submitted for Parish Council approval before CIL funds could be released for hub construction

#### 9462 **Correspondence**

##### Councillor John Jarvis

The Clerk as sad to report the news of Councillor John Jarvis's recent passing, following a short illness. Albeit he had only been a member of the Hurst Parish Council for a short period, he was a long serving Borough and Twyford Parish Councillor and Members agreed they wish they'd had the opportunity to get to know him better. On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chair reported that she would be attending his funeral.

### Trust Registration Service – Allotments

The Clerk reported that she had been informed by the NSALG for the need to register the allotments with HMRC. Basically, if an association holds a bank account that holds money collected from its members, this will be a trust which needs to be registered with HMRC. Advice has been provided by BALC to complete the process successfully. The Clerk confirmed that there was no deadline to meet but she would sort this as soon as possible to ensure compliance.

### Neighbourhood Planning

The Chair reported that, following the recent sad loss of John Edwards, the Chair of the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group, remaining members had met to discuss a way forward. It had been agreed that the group should be brought out of maintenance mode and an initial meeting would be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The group welcomed new members to carry forward the enormous amount of work which had been done so far.

Councillor Boyd challenged that this decision should have been brought to the next Parish Council meeting. He noted that the Working Group worked under a mandate set by the Parish Council and he did not feel that the Parish Council was in charge. As a Parish Councillor he wished to access all papers to bring himself up to speed with progress. Mrs Lou Robinson (who was in the public forum and a member of the Working Group) noted that all the minutes of the Working Group meetings were on the website and that would be a good starting point for Councillor Boyd.

Councillor Boyd requested access to all working papers and Mrs Robinson responded saying that a lot of the paperwork was commercially sensitive and in draft form only. Councillor Boyd wished for it to be minuted that this was Parish Council documentation to which he, as a Parish Councillor, wanted access.

### Keep Mobile Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Chair reported that she had attended the AGM of Keep Mobile, which the Parish Council supports annually in the form of a grant. She reported that Keep Mobile are currently seeking a site to house their 12 vehicles. They don't currently have a permanent site and she asked Councillors to recommend any sites, for which a peppercorn rent would be paid, if they knew of any.

9463 **Information Reports**

There were no information reports to bring to this meeting.

The Chair concluded that the Part II meeting would now commence and that by virtue of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the press, public and the Clerk be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following business: Clerks annual review.

The Part I meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....