

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD VIRTUALLY (VIA GOOGLE HANGOUTS) ON
MONDAY 6th April 2020 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Holdstock, Larkin and Turvey.

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

8960 Special Arrangements

Owing to the current pandemic and lockdown situation, the usual face to face meeting of the Parish Council was unable to be held. Alternative arrangements had been made for a “virtual” meeting of the Parish Council to be held. “Google Hangouts” was selected as the chosen platform as all Councillors e-mail accounts run through Google.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all Members and ensuring that everyone was visibly and audibly clear. The only technical issue was with Councillor Mansfield who was able to hear the discussion being held but, due to microphone problems, was unable to respond. The Chairman proceeded to conduct the meeting in the usual manner.

8961 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Holdstock, Larkin and Turvey.

8962 Prejudicial Interest

There were no prejudicial interests to declare.

8963 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th March 2020 were approved as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman at the first available opportunity.

8964 **Matters Arising**

The following matter was noted:

- everything relating to waste, apart from essential waste collections, are currently on hold. This includes the closure of the local amenity sites. Fly tipping is being monitored as a result. Deep cleaning teams are on standby to react to the situation.

Public Forum

8965 There was no public forum.

8966 **Covid 19 Update**

The Chairman updated Members regarding the current extensive work being undertaken throughout the Borough to support residents. Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) has confirmed that throughout the crisis they are intending to support all residents regardless of age or circumstances.

Challenges are being encountered at notably Dinton Pastures Country Park where social distancing and group gatherings have been noted. The Police had been called the preceding weekend to address such problems and the decision made to close the Sandford Lane entrance to the park. Off road parking has been prevalent along Sandford Lane and Lea Heath Way. The Wheelwrights Arms Public House has blocked off their car park.

Councillor Lyon enquired as to what the response to the call for volunteers had been. The Chairman confirmed that a fantastic response had been received from residents of the Parish with over 60 individuals offering to provide services for shopping, prescription collection and general friendly chats. The Clerk had undertaken considerable work the preceding weekend, along with the Chairman and members of the Village Society to collate detailed information for a flier. The flier would be delivered to all households in Hurst indicating volunteers per area/street who are able to help along with contact details.

8967 **Neighbourhood Planning**

The Chairman confirmed that due to the current pandemic neighbourhood planning was on hold. It is hoped that virtual meetings of the Working Group can be held in the near future but this is to be arranged.

8968 **Church Hill Petition**

The Chairman confirmed that he had a new proposal which he would circulate to Members and request comments.

RESOLVED: proposal to be circulated and comments invited from Members.

8972 **Correspondence**

Community Orchard

The Chairman confirmed that Councillor Pilgrim and he had met with SCS and volunteers at the community orchard, prior to lockdown, to consider options. It had been agreed that a small pond area, which would attract wildlife, along with the planting of wildflowers would be recommended. It had also been suggested that the planting of a semi mature oak tree would add to the attractiveness of the orchard. The beehive which is planned may be delayed due to current circumstances.

8973 **Information Reports**

There were no reports to bring to this meeting.

The virtual meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....