

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST
ON TUESDAY 14TH JUNE 2022 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors W. Smith (in the Chair),
Curry, Ewart, Holdstock, Lyon, Palmer and
Robinson.

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Four Members of the Public.

9286 Public Forum

The Chairman welcomed four parishoners to the public forum and noted that one question was to be raised by Mrs Susanne Lane. Mrs Lane addressed Members and expressed her disappointment with the village particularly in respect of School Road Playpark. She felt that the area could be put to greater use allowing people of all ages to mix and socialise. She particularly objected to dogs having to be on leads. Siting mental health as being of particular concern, she believed that adult exercise equipment would be of great benefit. She considered Hurst an unwelcoming village with Councillors making decisions and not residents.

She noted the lack of benches, dilapidated goal posts and equipment only suitable for toddlers. Areas such as the community orchard and pond are pleasant areas but not all residents can get to them and they do not serve the whole community.

Members noted her concerns and reported that benches are being considered along with the goal posts being updated. Councillor Palmer noted that as a life long resident of Hurst he had always found the village to be extremely welcoming.

Dogs on leads is as a direct result of the endless fouling problems which have occurred in recent years. Despite receiving significant grant funding approximately ten years ago to add additional equipment into the park, including adult exercise equipment, local opposition prevented this and equipment was relocated to Dinton Pastures. Councillors considered the village to be friendly and inclusive and this could only be enhanced by plans for a new community hub.

9287 Apologies for absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beauchamp, Stephenson and I. Smith.

Councillor Robinson declared an interest in respect of agenda item number 9, in his capacity as a current allotment holder.

9288 Minutes

The minutes of the annual parish meeting, followed by the monthly meeting of the Parish Council both held on the 3rd May 2022 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

9289 Matters arising

The following matters were noted:

- the Chairman will follow up with WBC regarding the crossing at Dinton Pastures;
- the aged goal posts in School Road Playpark still need replacing; and
- despite an advert in The Hurst Word for a handyperson, no one has come forward

9290 Neighbourhood Planning

Councillor Curry updated Members as to current progress. The Neighbourhood Planning Working Group had met the previous week. Much work continues to be undertaken, largely by two individuals who continue to work tirelessly. A number of companies have been engaged with to provide professional services.

9291 Planning Applications

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. It was agreed that Members had no adverse comments with regards to applications 221221, 221265 and 221461. They had no adverse comments relating to application 220938 but did make an observation.

The Clerk noted two recent appeals in respect of The Vale, Forest Road. The most recent appeal invites representations by the 8th July 2022. Members considered they had nothing further to add to previously submitted comments.

RESOLVED:

- The Clerk to communicate the Parish Council's planning comments to WBC.

9294 CiLCA Qualification

The Clerk was pleased to report that she had passed the final CiLCA qualification. This enables, at the next election, for the Council to have the right to exercise the General Power of Competence on the additional provision that at least 50% of Councillors are elected.

9295 Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22

The annual Governance Statement was approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

9296 Annual Accounting Statement for 2021/22

The accounting statements were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

9297 Vision Statement

The Chairman agreed to carry this item forward to next month and asked Members to review the draft statement in the meantime.

RESOLVED: agenda item to be carried forward to July 2022 meeting.

9298 **Allotment Rent**

Members considered the current allotment rents and discussed the details of income and expenditure over the last four years which the Clerk had provided. Whilst recognised as an amenity, to be supported by the Parish Council, it was noted that over the last most recent four years, the allotments had made a loss of over £4000. Members felt that the allotment rents were lower than neighbouring Parishes and that a modest rise, with effect from the 2023/24 season, would be appropriate.

Councillor Curry confirmed that she had met with allotment holder, Mr Paul Martin the previous day. Discussions had been held around the possibility of installing an additional water tank which a small team of allotment holders were willing to help with. The costs associated with the work would be minimal. Members agreed that they would be very pleased if this could be undertaken and the Clerk would inform Mr Martin to proceed.

RESOLVED: Rent increases to take effect from 1st April 2023 as below:

10 pole allotment to increase from £60 to £70 per annum;

5 pole allotment to increase from £30 to £35 per annum; and

2.5 pole allotment to increase from £15 to £17.50 per annum.

The Clerk to give due notice of the pending increase to allotment holders.

The Clerk to contact Mr Martin to confirm he can proceed with the water tank installation.

9299 Dunt Lane Field

The Chairman confirmed that he would be arranging a meeting with the Solicitors for the Clerk and him to attend regarding next steps.

9300 Correspondence

Jubilee

The Clerk reported that she had received some nice thank you letters in respect of the Jubilee. She noted that thanks had been received from The Hurst Village Society, Haines Hill Estate and Theresa May. Additionally, she had received many thank you notes from parishoners. The Jubilee weekend was considered to be a huge success and great community event with many people supporting the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked many individual helpers and wished for notes of thanks specifically to be sent to the following for their significant contribution and help:

- Stanlake Park Estate
- Haines Hill Estate
- The Hurst Show
- The Hurst Village Halls
- The Hurst Air Scouts
- The Rock Choir
- Hurst Cricket Club
- Hurst Football Club
- Hurst Bowls Club
- Colleen Scott
- St Nicholas Church

- All of the bands who contributed to the Martineau Green event
- St Nicholas Church Bell Ringers
- St Nicholas CE Primary School
- Chocoholics
- Si Chand
- Suzy Turner
- Stuart and Rebecca Vaughan
- Duncan Kendall
- Chris James
- Robert and Lyn Jeggo
- Tony and Lou Robinson

Blocked ditches

Councillor Ewart noted blocked ditches at Nelsons Lane where water is blue in colour and smelling. Additionally, she reported that the ditch at land adjacent to Grange Farm was blocked and overflowing – the following evening the Council had been called and came to unblock it. If this hadn't been done Councillor Ewart feared that neighbouring properties would have been flooded. She reported that, despite being cleared the following evening, the ditch this morning was already full of water once more. The Chairman agreed to follow this up with WBC.

RESOLVED: the Chairman to speak to WBC regarding on going ditch problems.

Dangerous Fencing

Councillor Ewart reported dangerous metal spikes protruding through fencing next to the Cricket Club. Whilst walking along the adjacent pavement pedestrians and dogs could be injured.

RESOLVED: the clerk to follow up.

CCTV

The Chairman confirmed that he is waiting to have a meeting with Thames Valley Police regarding the potential siting of CCTV cameras within the village. This is as a direct response to recent crime.

9301 **Information Reports**

There were none to bring to this meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....