

## **ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST  
ON MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

One Member of the Public (in part).

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

### **8935 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Larkin.

### **8936 Prejudicial Interest**

There were no prejudicial interests to declare.

### **8937 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **8938 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **Public Forum**

8939 The Chairman welcomed one member to the public forum. The Parishoner was in attendance following a car accident which had occurred in the early hours of this morning directly outside her property in Wards Cross. At approximately 6.20am a van collided into parked cars and the lady was awoken by loud noise. The lady and her neighbours, wearing high visibility jackets and head torches, went outside to warn oncoming traffic of the accident.

The lady confirmed that this is not the first time her family has been victim of this type of incident. To date, she has had seven cars damaged and three written off. Her overriding concern is the speed of traffic and the potential danger to life. The road has a high density of school children crossing and vehicles often pay total disregard to the speed limit.

Councillors expressed their dismay that this had occurred. The Chairman reiterated the proactive work which the Parish Council has undertaken relentlessly in recent years. This has included over 100 traffic monitoring surveys (results of which are shared with the Police), the purchase of a speed warning sign, the introduction of speed roundels on the main A321, a speed petition on Church Hill and vehicle activated signs.

The Chairman urged parishoners to log all such incidents with the Police. Councillor Mansfield explained to the lady the outcome of speed surveys he had undertaken – surprisingly, a recent speed survey at Wards Cross indicated over a 7 day, 24/7 period, only 14% of vehicles exceeding 30mph and only 2% exceeding 35mph.

The Chairman offered to come out at any time of the day to locate the speed activated sign on the intersection of Tape Lane and Wards Cross. The lady was very grateful for this offer and was willing to assist. In addition, the Chairman would contact Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) with a view to a Highways Officer attending the exercise.

The lady asked whether there was potential for two street lights to be erected either end of the The Street. Further discussion was then held regarding the pros and cons of both double yellow lines and chicanes and whether “accident black spot” signs would help.

It was noted with some dismay that when a police speed check was undertaken recently, a high percentage of speeders were residents of the parish.

Councillors debated whether the Police or Theresa May, as local Member of Parliament, could support any speed reduction programme. Such measures, once agreed, could possibly be funded by CIL monies which Members considered would be very good use of the funds.

The lady thanked Councillors for her time and reiterated that the safety of pedestrians was her key reason for attending this evenings meeting. She left at 8.15pm.

**RESOLVED:** the Chairman to liaise with WBC Highways Officers and undertake a vehicle activated sign exercise at the junction of Tape Lane and Wards Cross.

#### **8940 Neighbourhood Planning**

The Chairman confirmed that a preliminary draft report had been received from Bell Cornwell, collating the results of the completed questionnaires. The Neighbourhood Planning Group were due to meet the following evening to discuss. A public feedback session has been booked for the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in the Village Halls.

A grant application has been made by Bell Cornwell, on behalf of the Parish Council, for additional grant funds.



Feedback from Hurst Village Halls Committee

Councillor Curry provided feedback from the most recent Hurst Village halls Committee meeting. She confirmed that she had informed the committee that the Parish Council would be receptive to supporting the financing, on a match funding basis, of a “community building” which could be multi use and the home of the Scouts and village archives. She explained that she had received mixed reviews over this suggestion.

Councillor Curry informed members that the tenants of the property located between the Village Hall and Pre-School have given notice after many years of occupancy.

Activity Centre at Dinton Pastures

The Chairman circulated to Members the proposed design for a new multipurpose activity centre to be situated at Dinton Pastures. Member agreed that the proposals were aesthetically pleasing and in keeping with the park. However, it was noted that a new centre would bring even greater demands on parking and crossing the main Davis Street. It was agreed that Dinton Pastures would have to take ownership of these issues and ensure they were addressed.

Parish Council Noticeboards

The Clerk reported that the noticeboards located at Davis Street and Lodge Road were now leaking and in need of replacement.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to source new suitable notice boards for replacing those currently located at Davis street and Lodge Road.

Interactive Parish Council Map

The clerk informed Members that the website had been further improved with the addition of an interactive map. The map shows, amongst many landmarks, the Parish flood zones and footpaths.

Verges in School Road

Councillor Curry reported that the verges in School Road, particularly those located close to the school, are in appalling condition. The verges need reinstating.

8945 **Information Reports**

The Clerk confirmed that a new interactive map had been added to the Parish Council website featuring amongst many features details of flood zones, footpaths and local amenities.

The meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....