ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY (VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS) ON MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors W. Smith (in the Chair),

Curry, Holdstock, Lyon, Mansfield, I. Smith,

Stephenson and Turvey.

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: One member of the public.

9045 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pilgrim. All those on the call were audibly clear.

9046 Prejudicial Interest

There were no prejudicial interests to declare.

9047 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th October 2020 were approved as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman at the first available opportunity.

9048 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

9049 **Public Forum**

The Chairman welcomed Maggie Sanderson to the public forum. Mrs Sanderson raised issues as below and requested that:

- Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) replace the signage stating "Side Road Ahead" on the left hand side of the A321 going south as one approaches Islandstone Lane. She noted that this had been demolished a while ago; and
- the seven black and white warning signs "Edge of Carriageway Marker/Road Edge Marker Posts" which used to be on the edge of Orchard Road north side be replaced. She believed that the camber on Orchard Road, the volume of traffic and the water filled ditch between the road and the field would justify this.

RESOLVED: the Chairman to refer to WBC for attention.

9050 **Covid 19 Update**

The Chairman noted that England would go into a further month long lockdown commencing on the 5th November 2020. The impact within the Borough will inevitably be felt once more and the mental health of residents is of concern. Support groups will be reinstated within Hurst with volunteers on standby to help the most vulnerable. The Chairman said he had received many queries from businesses querying whether they qualify as being "essential". Marshalls will be deployed across the Borough.

It was noted that events such as the Remembrance Day parade will be cancelled. The Parish Council will, however, place wreaths at both St Nicholas Church and on the Forest Road.

Councillor Turvey queried whether playgrounds would be closed. The Chairman confirmed that clarification was being awaited from WBC.

9051 Neighbourhood Planning

The Chairman confirmed that the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group would be meeting on the 4th November 2020 to discuss policies; significant work had been undertaken on these.

9052 Church Hill Petition

The Chairman confirmed that he had no further update from WBC and hoped that the latest pending lockdown would not cause delay to the works.

9053 Howard Larkin Memorial

The Chairman confirmed that he had sourced both a bench and signage for the allotments. The main gate needs replacing and he is seeking a quote from the Parish Council's landscape contractor. The Chairman agreed to meet with Councillor Curry, Allotment Manager, and Mr Paul Martin, an allotment holder of many years, to discuss plans for the allotments. It was noted that some landscaping works are required and these are to be discussed. Feedback will be provided at the December meeting of the Parish Council.

Additionally, it was noted that Councillor Larkin used to hold tours of the allotments for local school children. Councillor Curry agreed to ask Mr Martin if he would be happy to take on this role.

RESOLVED: the Chairman, Councillor Curry and Mr Paul Martin to meet at the allotments to discuss potential works and school tours.

9054 Speeding Device

The Chairman reported that he had undertaken a number of spot checks with the portable "smiley face" sign assisted by local resident Mr Paul Palmer. Checks had been undertaken within the last few weeks at Whistley Green, Lodge Road, Forest Road and Davis Street. Once again, results concur with the last seven years of data collected by the speed device regularly placed around the Parish by Councillor Mansfield.

The Chairman was saddened to report that the four highest recorded speeds captured on Forest Road were committed by residents of Hurst. Councillor Turvey noted that speeding is a very emotive subject particularly in roads such as School Road where the school is based. Communication is key and he felt that residents had to be reminded once more that they are sometimes part of the problem and need to be part of the solution. The Chairman reiterated that endless communication had been produced by HVS but still the message was failing to get through to all.

The Chairman sought the Parish Council's support in purchasing a new device. The device would be similar to that recently purchased by Ruscombe Parish Council for which they have received positive public feedback. The sign indicates a motorist's speed, indicates a smiley or sad face and is permanently erected at a site. It comes with three mounting plates which enables easy manoeuvring around the village to different locations.

Discussion ensued with Members being supportive of such a device. However, Councillor Stephenson said he could not support a purchase until he had seen the full specification for the proposed sign.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to circulate the specification for the device and seek agreement to its purchase.

9055 Planning Applications

Members considered the application attached to these minutes. They had no adverse comments with regards to applications 202556, 202325, 202551, 202552, 202528 and 202490. Objections were made regarding application 202584.

The Chairman noted no live or pending appeals or hearings.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to communicate comments to WBC.

9056 Finance

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

Ref 8.1 \ 8.2 \ 8.3 \ 8.4 \ 5	Expenditure - Payee W Smith (reimbursement for pos SCS (replacement post at Howa SCS (grounds maintenance Sep 5G (monthly office phone) Castle Water (allotments 1/8/20-	stcrete) rd's Way)	£	31.58 180.08	CIL* 133407.59	Planning ** -2808.12	Total 193488.71
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	Castle Water (allotments 1/8/20-			26.34			
	O. (- - - - - - - -	31/1/21)		196.59			
8.6	Oxfordshire County Council (TVI	ERC data search)				90.00	
8.7	M Bradshaw (reimbursement for	2 no. poppy wreaths)		50.00			
8.8	Luke Roxburgh-Smith (watering	and weeding at community orcha	ard)	140.00			
8.9 \	W Smith (reimbursement for fun	eral flowers D. Jackson)	T)	80.00			
8.10	0 Boston Bulbs (bulbs for community orchard)			32.99			
8.11	Thames Water (School Rd)			24.30			
8.12	M Bradshaw	Salary (Oct 2020)	1037.98				
		(Income Tax)	-8.40				
		(National Insurance)	-29.52				
		(Pension)	-41.52				
		Office	40.00	998.54			
8.13	NEST Oct (Employee pension £41.52 + Employer pension £31.14)			72.66			
8.14 l	HMRC Oct (Employee's Income Tax £8.40 & National Insurance £29			37.92			
				2500.72	0.00	90.00	2590.72
-	Income						
	Dunt Lane rent (Nov 2020)			79.77			
	Total Income			79.77	0.00	0.00	79.77
	I Otal IIICOIIIC			79.77	0.00	0.00	79.77
	Revised balance c/f			00.400.00	133407.59	2002.42	190977.76

RESOLVED: all payments in respect of this month were approved.

9057 Correspondence

<u>Noticeboards</u>

The Chairman reported that new noticeboards had been sourced for positioning at Davis Street, Lodge Road and Forest Road. He was seeking permission form the house to whom Forest Road's noticeboard is attached to increase the size of the board to a more suitable size.

CIL Co-Funding Bids

The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from WBC asking for the Parish Council's comments on two CIL funding bids. The bids relate to:

 Highways - Improved signs and wayfinding for pedestrians and cyclists to make full use of infrastructure for cycling and walking. Quickly identifies routes, destinations and places of interest. Project is scalable depending on design required. Feasibility to be undertaken with interested Town and Parishes. Highways - Provision of new EV charge points to support uptake of Electric Vehicles. This will support the ambition to be net-zero carbon by 2030. Sites and exact details to be developed; project is scalable depending on funding available and subject to assessment of power availability in some areas.

Members felt that they were unable to support either bid without further information; namely, financials.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to revert back to WBC requesting financials upon which a decision can be based.

Bulb Planting

The Chairman suggested that bulbs could be planted throughout the village so enhancing the village in the Spring. Members agreed that this was a good idea and volunteers would be sought to plant them. Boston Bulbs, previously used, can supply 5000 bulbs for £350.

Additionally, the Rotary Club have agreed to donate crocus bulbs to be planted near the Village Pond. They have requested that a plaque be erected stating the doner. Members agreed that a small plaque would be acceptable for a limited period of one year.

RESOLVED: 5000 daffodil bulbs to be purchased.

St Nicholas Night

It was noted that St Nicholas Night would be cancelled this year due to the pandemic. However, the Chairman confirmed that a tree would be erected. Albeit, Haines Hill has confirmed they do not have a suitable tree to donate this year, the Chairman is liaising with them to seek their assistance with the erection of a tree from elsewhere. Lifting equipment is essential for the safe erection of the tree which remains the centrepiece of the village at Christmas time.

Crossing at Dinton Pastures

The Chairman reported that he is awaiting the Engineer's report regarding the proposed location of the crossing at Dinton Pastures. There were originally three potential options and he is seeking clarification as to how a decision regarding siting has been reached. Councillor I. Smith commented that it would be helpful if the crossing could be installed by next Summer when pedestrian footfall is at a height.

9058 Information Reports

There were no information reports to bring to this meeting.
The virtual meeting ended at 8.58 p.m.
Signed
Date