

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST  
ON MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

One Member of the Public.

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

### **8865 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I. Smith and Turvey.

### **8866 Prejudicial Interest**

There were no prejudicial interests to declare.

### **8867 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **8868 Matters Arising**

The following matters were noted:

- clearance work to the Village pond has been commissioned but not yet started as anticipated. The condition of the pond is poor, not helped by the lack of rain over the summer period.

RESOLVED: the Chairman to chase the pond contractor for a start date.

### **Public Forum**

8869 The Chairman welcomed Maggie Sanderson to the public forum.

**8870 Neighbourhood Planning**

The Clerk confirmed that the neighbourhood planning questionnaire had been dispatched to all on the Council Tax register that day. Parishoners will have the opportunity to answer the questionnaire and return it in a pre-paid envelope or alternatively, complete it online. Banners will be erected around the parish this coming weekend reminding people to take part. An open session will be held on the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in the village halls for those who require assistance in completing the questionnaire.

**8871 Community Speedwatch**

The Chairman confirmed that the vehicle activated speed sign had been very effective in reducing car speeds whilst placed on Church Hill during the recent works which had taken place at the Church yard. The Clerk confirmed that PC Philip Ashlee, Thames Valley Police, had sent his apologies for this evening but had confirmed his attendance at the Parish Council's November 2019 meeting to discuss speeding, the Church Hill petition and community speed watch.

**8872 Davis Street Playpark**

The park has now been improved with holes being filled, the play park equipment re-painted and two new benches being installed. Thanks was given to all those concerned.

**8873 St Nicholas Churchyard**

Thanks was given to both the Chairman and Councillor Holdstock for their assistance with the tree stump grinding in the churchyard. The Contractor had completed the work and costs kept to a minimum due to the Chairman and Councillor Holdstock's volunteering. It was agreed that the churchyard looked much improved and that site lines had opened up following the removal of the large tree stump. Members gave approval to order the memorial bench with the inscription "remembering those who have fallen, donated by St Nicholas Hurst Parish Council, 2019". Wording had been suggested by the Church and was agreed. The cost of the proposed bench was approximately £500 including delivery and engraving.

It was noted that parking on Church Hill continues to be a significant problem, particularly impacting upon the The Castle Inn car park and its patrons ability to park. The Chairman confirmed that alternative options have to be pursued with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC). It was recognised that, due to the significant ramp access, the community orchard was not a suitable parking site. Maggie Sanderson queried whether the "Caution Event in Progress" sign is used by the church when large events are in progress. Councillor Pilgrim agreed to liaise with the Church Warden to ascertain the position. The question of a temporary one way system when large events are on was queried by Councillor Lyon.

RESOLVED:

- the Clerk to arrange the ordering of the bench; and
- Councillor Pilgrim to liaise with the Church Warden regarding the parking issues and traffic flow when large events are on.

#### 8874 **Community Orchard**

The community orchard is nearing completion with benches now installed. Signage is to be ordered imminently. The extremely hot bouts of weather had been detrimental to the newly planted trees and thanks was given to the Chairman's Son who had spent some time watering the trees in an attempt to save them.

SCS has been asked to quote for additional fencing and wild flower areas and the Clerk confirmed she is waiting on this quote for Member approval.

An official opening date is yet to be confirmed but Members discussed who may open the community orchard. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to invite the children from St Nicholas CE Primary School and their families. Children will be invited to take part in a competition with the winning child and their family being invited to perform the opening ceremony.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to liaise with St Nicholas CE Primary inviting children to take part in a competition.

#### 8875 **Parish Council website**

The Clerk update Members regarding the requirements of the Accessibility Act. The Parish Council website, in its current form, does not meet the Act's requirements. Advice has been sought from the Parish Council's website provider and it has been confirmed that the current platform cannot support what is required. The Clerk will, therefore, explore alternatives to see what is viable. Members did not consider this to be an urgent priority but something which should be explored over coming months.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to liaise with alternative website providers to ascertain the costs of a new, compliant website.

## 8876 Church Hill

It was noted that it was a year since the Church Hill petition had been presented and Councillor Stephenson expressed his disappointment with the response from Thames Valley Police, reading allowed the e-mail he had received from Sergeant Mark Smith prior to his recent retirement. It was noted that PC Philip Ashlee will attend the Parish Council meeting next month and it was hoped progress could be made.

## 8877 Planning Applications

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. They had no adverse comments with regards to applications 191480, 191716, 191715, 191513, 191720. Although no adverse comments were made regarding application 192012, Members made a minor observation. Members had no comment but a minor observation with regards to application 191959.

Councillor Larkin updated members regarding current appeals. He agreed to prepare an appeal statement on behalf of the Parish Council in relation to appeal reference 182402, Poppies Farm, Pound Lane.

### RESOLVED:

- the Clerk to communicate the Parish Council's planning comments to WBC; and
- Councillor Larkin to compile appeal statement in relation to 182402.

## 8878 Finance

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

	<b>Main Fund</b>	<b>CIL*</b>	<b>Neighbour hood Planning**</b>	<b>Total</b>
Previous Balance	£ 37236.92	23157.59	2158.49	62553.00

The following accounts are presented for approval this month:

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Expenditure - Payee</b>		
6.1	W Smith (reimbursement for beverages at "Meet your Councillors")	10.25	
6.2	Fencing Products (6 no. benches)	972.00	
6.3	M Bradshaw (reimbursement for hosepipe/trolley/spray gun)	212.95	
6.4	M Bradshaw (reimbursement for computer)	899.00	
6.5	M Bradshaw (reimbursement for ink cartridges)	70.73	
6.6	E&R Projects (allotment gate post)	314.04	
6.7	Glasdon (dog waste bin)	133.46	
6.8	Thames Water (School Road)	27.87	
6.9	OCS (dog waste removal July 19)	69.60	
6.10	T Mansfield (reimbursement for "No Dogs" sign)	81.60	
6.11	SCS (grounds maintenance July 19)	614.35	
6.12	Woodley Town Council (Councillor training)	75.71	
6.13	D Kendall (reimbursement for Survey Monkey)		384.00
6.14	SCS (control of weeds at Martineau Green playpark)	348.00	
6.15	Triple C Engineering (bench support brackets)	168.00	

6.16	Royal Mail (response services licence)			118.80	
6.17	J Earley (watering July 19)	42.50			
6.18	W Smith (reimbursement for Davis Street paint)	86.18			
6.19	SCS (filling of holes in Davis St Playpark)	739.80			
6.20	M Bradshaw (reimbursement for 4 no. brass plaques)	180.60			
6.21	Southern Electric (phone box)	39.37			
6.22	Southern Electric (School Road)	50.42			
6.23	PKF Littlejohn (External Audit 2018/19)	360.00			
6.24	Advantage Printroom (6 no. banners)			476.40	
6.25	Lyreco (stationery)	30.00			
6.26	SCS (grounds maintenance Aug. 19)	614.35			
6.27	Freestyle (allotment sign)	96.00			
6.28	OCS (dog waste removal Aug. 19)	69.60			
6.29	M Bradshaw	Salary (Aug. 19)	988.65		
		(National Insurance)	-32.36		
		(Pension)	-39.55		
		Office	40.00		
		Phone	25.00		
		Mileage	2.35		
			984.09		
6.30	HMRC (Employee's National Insurance)		32.36		
6.31	NEST (Employee pension £39.55 + Employer pension £29.66)		69.21		
6.32	Castle Water (allotments)		86.31		
6.33	James Roxburgh - Smith (painting at Davis Street Playpark)		120.00		
6.34	James Roxburgh - Smith (watering at community orchard)		135.00		
			7733.35	0.00	979.20 8712.55
<b>Income</b>					
	HVS (reimbursement for 4 no. benches)		540.00		
	Dunt Lane rent (Aug. 19)		75.97		
	<b>Total Income</b>		615.97	0.00	0.00 615.97
<b>Revised balance c/f</b>			30119.54	23157.59	1179.29 54456.42

The Clerk informed members that the annual External Audit for 2018/19 had been completed with no matters arising. On behalf of members, Councillor Lyon thanked the Clerk for her diligent work.

RESOLVED: the accounts were approved for this month.

## 8879 Correspondence

### Pavement by Village Shop

In Councillor Turvey's absence the Clerk raised a matter on his behalf. He had been approached by a number of residents regarding the lack of pavement from the School Road playpark to the Village shop. This is an issue which Members recognised but felt that there was little resolve given the narrow nature of the road and the inability for a pavement to be accommodated adjacent to the shop. Councillor Curry noted that the accepted practice at this junction is to cross the main road and cross back over. Albeit, not ideal, there was considered to be little alternative practical solution.

### Tape Lane redevelopment

The Chairman informed members that Simon Price, Head of Housing for WBC wished to attend the November 2019 of the Parish Council to update Members regarding the Tape Lane redevelopment. Nearing conclusion, Mr Price wished to invite members to view the facilities at the new properties. Residents are scheduled to move in before January 2020.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to formally invite Mr Price to the November 2019 meeting of the Parish Council.

### Davis Way parking

Councillor Stephenson noted the increasing volumes of dangerous parking and rubbish on Davis Way. The Chairman confirmed that he had visited the area with WBC Officers and recognised that something had to be done to address the growing problem.

### Public Rights of Way consultation

The Clerk reminded Members of the live public rights of way consultation. Councillor Curry had already provided some feedback for communication to WBC and councillor Stephenson agreed to provide drawings of the public footpath through the ex-golf course at Dinton Pastures.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to feed Members' comments back to WBC.

### Sandford Lane – traffic Management

On behalf of a parishoner, the Clerk read aloud an e-mail which had been passed to her regarding traffic management and accidents on Sandford Lane. The response from WBC had indicated that an investigation into the collision history of Sandford Lane has been programmed for 2019/20 with a view to introducing measures to reduce speed. This will be undertaken when resources are available. Data gathering relating to traffic speed and existing highway conditions is scheduled imminently.

### Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Bid

The Clerk informed Members that a bid on CIL monies had been received from Loddon Valley Ramblers. The funds required of £7,156 had been requested to undertake 4 no. bridleway surface improvements on the western section within Hurst. Members agreed they needed greater clarification regarding the project before a decision could be made.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to seek clarification from WBC.

8880    **Information Reports**

There were no reports to bring to this meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....