

## **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> June 2019 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

### **8838 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **8839 Prejudicial Interest**

There were no prejudicial interests to declare.

### **8840 Vacancy for a Parish Councillor**

The Clerk confirmed that, following his attendance at the June 2019 meeting of the Parish Council, Mr Sam Turvey had formally expressed a desire to join the Parish Council. He was unable to attend this meeting but hoped to come to the July 2019 meeting with a view to co-option.

### **8841 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **8842 Matters Arising**

The following matters were noted:

- Councillor Stephenson expressed the need for consistency in terms of dogs being allowed into the Community Orchard in the same way they can use other open areas namely School Road, Davis Street and Martineau playparks. The Chairman reiterated that the decision had been made at the previous meeting that the Community Orchard was a different facility. The Community Orchard trees will bear fruit in years to come and Members agreed that fruit, which could potentially be picked up from the ground by children, could not run the risk of falling onto dog waste.

Therefore, on the grounds that dogs were welcomed in many other facilities within the Parish, a dog free zone in the Community Orchard was deemed justifiable and not unreasonable;

- The Clerk confirmed that a new dog waste bin will be ordered for Martineau Playpark; and
- Councillor Mansfield confirmed that he will enquire into new signage for Martineau Playpark outlining the rules of the park.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to order a dog waste bin and Councillor Mansfield to source appropriate signage for Martineau Playpark.

### **Public Forum**

- 8843 The Chairman welcomed one member of the public to the public forum. Mrs Maggie Sanderson enquired regarding the neighbourhood planning process and whether the school, its staff and governors had been consulted with. The Chairman explained that the process will involve liaison with all residents and local businesses. Consultation was undertaken with the children of the pre-school early on in the process. It was noted that many of the school staff are not resident to Hurst. Governors, who are residents, will be consulted with.

### **8844 Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. The Clerk confirmed that she was still waiting on a point of clarification, raised by Councillor Larkin, from WBC regarding application 191039. Application 191156 was with Councillor Holdstock for consideration and further circulation.

The Clerk expressed her concern to the Parish Council that, when minor points of clarification are sought on planning applications, the response from WBC is often slow. Lack of access to case officers, as previously available, was hindering small and often easily answered questions. The Clerk expressed frustration that Parish Clerks are not always viewed as Council Officers and are treated in the same manner as members of the public. This does not aid Clerks in their day to day work. In his capacity as Executive Member for Planning, the Chairman agreed to raise this concern with WBC senior officers.

RESOLVED:

- the Clerk to communicate the Parish Council's planning comments to WBC; and
- the Chairman to raise the Clerk's concerns with WBC regarding the distinction between requests from Clerks and requests from the general public.

8845 **Finance**

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

[illegible]

## Allotment repairs

Councillor Larkin reported that the gate post required replacement at the allotments along with the signage. He would seek a quote for the works and report back to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: quote to be sought by Councillor Larkin for work at allotments.

## 8846 Neighbourhood Planning Update

As previously reported, the Chairman reiterated that WBC will be issuing to all Borough residents a questionnaire in June asking residents to look at the profile of the Borough's housing. To this end, it was felt prudent and to avoid any risk of confusion, for the neighbourhood planning questionnaire to be slightly delayed until after the Borough one.

8847 **Community Speedwatch**

Councillor Stephenson confirmed that he had been in contact with Thames Valley Police to ascertain a point of contact for engagement. A response is awaited.

#### 8848 **Davis Street Playpark**

The Chairman informed Members that the Clerk had gained three separate quotes for alternative playground equipment at Davis Street Playpark. The Clerk explained that all companies have their separate offerings which are similar but not identical. Councillor Larkin reiterated his reservations regarding expenditure at Davis Street Playpark stating that, upon a recent visit to Dinton Pastures, he felt there was adequate suitable play equipment there for younger children.

The Chairman confirmed that of the current £23k CIL monies available, Members had to be mindful of potential pending expenditure on Church Hill (with regards to improved signage and road markings) along with any desires to upgrade the playpark facilities. He felt that once a quote for the work at Church Hill was confirmed, a more informed stance could be taken on the extent of expenditure at Davis Street. Members concurred that this was a sensible approach. The Chairman felt confident that this information should be available by the next meeting of the Parish Council, at which point an informed decision could be made.

Discussion was held as to when any further CIL monies were likely to be received by the Parish Council. This was not known and the Clerk agreed to revert back to WBC for clarification.

#### RESOLVED:

- the Chairman to pursue the quote for the works at Church Hill for presentation at the July 2019 meeting of the Parish Council; and
- the Clerk to contact WBC to ascertain when the Parish is likely to receive any further CIL monies.

#### 8849 **Correspondence**

##### Tenancy of Dunt Lane field

The Clerk informed Members that the current three-year lease on Dunt Lane field expires on the 31/7/19 and that the current tenant had expressed their desire to enter into a further three-year tenancy until the 31/7/22. Members agreed that the tenant could pay by monthly direct debit, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, as requested.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to draw up a new tenancy agreement for signing by the tenant.

### Commemorative Bench to mark D-Day

The Clerk informed Members that she had been asked whether the Parish was doing anything specific to mark D-Day and remember the fallen and serving military. She presented to Members details of a commemorative bench (depicting soldiers and poppies) and asked for their support in installing it within the Parish. Members discussed suitable locations, namely the Community Orchard. However, they felt that to position the bench near the War Memorial at the Church would be very apt. It was felt appropriate to contact the Church to see if they would be supportive of this suggestion which would be funded by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to contact the Church regarding the positioning of a commemorative bench.

### 8850 **Information Reports**

Councillor Curry reported that the AGM of Hurst Village Halls had taken place the previous week. Plans are in place to sand and seal the main village hall floor. There are also plans in place to refurbish the Ladies cloakroom. The Halls are generating good revenue streams and this is pleasing to note.

The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....