

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE SMALL VILLAGE HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST,
ON MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2008 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors W. Smith (in the Chair),
Bowman, Holdstock, Larkin, J. Martin, P. Martin and
Shults
Borough Councillor Mrs. A. Drake

OFFICER: Mrs. J. Haines (Clerk)

OTHER: Local Reporter (part meeting)

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors
Cox, Curry and Stephenson

7303 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 January 2008 were approved as a correct record.

7304 Matters Arising from the Minutes

7059 - Davis Street Playing Field Fence

The Chairman reported that no contact had been received and action would be required.

7264(ii) - Speed Indication Device (SID)

The Clerk reported that the issue had been pursued with WBC but that a response was still awaited.

7289 - Vegetation between Davis Street and Dinton Pastures

The Clerk reported that the response from WBC had identified that this was a rural highway verge. This meant that the vegetation would be kept tidy to ensure that it did not encroach upon the road, but that the height would not be reduced.

7293 - Insurance Claim

The Clerk had spoken to the Council's Insurer but damage to the tree lights was not covered. The discussion had highlighted issues of insurance cover, assets and risk. It was agreed that the Clerk should start to draw up an assets register to help inform future decisions.

7302 - Dolphin School: It was confirmed that the Appeal had allowed both the lighting and the lights to remain.

7305 Public Forum

Discussion focused on planning decisions and appeals and the need for S106 infrastructure payments for new developments.

7306 Police Matters

The report of PCSO Daniels had been previously circulated. Councillor J Martin reported that PCSO Daniels no longer had responsibility for Hurst as she had now been assigned to Tywford and Ruscombe. Concern was expressed about policing resources for Hurst and proposed arrangements until a replacement was in post.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the local Chief Inspector to request information on police resources for Hurst.

7307 Planning Applications

(i) Members discussed the list of applications attached to these Minutes.

(ii) Members noted the appeals and informal hearings.

7308 Provision for Young People in the Parish

Cllr J Martin reported that work on the skate-park had been delayed. The equipment for the skate-park had already been purchased and was being stored. It was noted that original proposals had identified resources for a safe route from Hurst to the Skate Park, but that this had not been referred to in recent discussions.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to Wokingham BC to ascertain the current position regarding the safe route from Hurst.

7309 Village Clean Up

The date was confirmed for Saturday 29 March 2008. It was agreed that the Chairman would liaise with the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements. Additionally, the Chairman agreed to ensure that related publicity suggested that residents use the opportunity to clear their own frontages.

Correspondence

The following were reported:

7310 Appointment of new External Auditor

The Council had been informed by the Audit Commission that the new contract for external Audit Services had been transferred from UHY Hacker Young to Mazars LLP

7311 Local Area Agreements (LAAS)

The Clerk reported that the Local Area Agreements (L.A.As) were currently being refined for submission to GOSE in May/June. The L.A.A.s (previously circulated to all Councillors) were being developed in partnership with agencies throughout Wokingham.

7312 **Meeting with the Chief Executive**

The Clerk reported that she had attended a meeting with the new WBC Chief Executive at which a number of proposals were discussed. These included the Borough Council's 'Customer First' initiative (which was looking to improve access to services) and proposals for a new corporate structure.

7313 **Local Standards Committee**

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the Principal Democratic Services Officer at WBC outlining appointments to the new local Standards Committee. Three places were proposed for Town and Parish Councils with suggestions for the filling of each. Members sought further information on the length of tenure of the proposed posts.

7314 **BALC**

The Council noted changes to the administration of BALC. The Bucks and Berks branches had agreed to re-establish separate offices, with the Berkshire Office due to be relocated in March to the offices of the Community Council for Berkshire.

7315 **Finance**

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Opening Balance as at 11.02.08 in Current & Deposit Accounts
(excluding S 106 money) £28,985

Ref	Payee	£	£
11.1	Cllr P Martin (<i>web site renewal</i>)		105.74
11.2	Thames Water (<i>Tape Lane allotments Oct-Jan</i>)		7.42
11.3	Hurst Cricket Club (<i>donation agreed 8.1.08</i>)		50.00
11.4	Hurst Village Hall (<i>February meeting</i>)		25.50
11.5	SDK Environmental (<i>Dog Bin emptying</i>)		11.75
11.6	Gavin Verdin (<i>Litter picking Aug/Sept 07</i>)		90.00
11.7	Quadron (<i>Grass cutting – 8 cuts Summer 07</i>)		799.00
11.8	J Haines		
	<i>Salary</i>	383.96	
	<i>Office</i>	40.00	
	<i>Mileage</i>	32.92	
	<i>Stationery</i>	3.35	460.23
	Total Expenditure for February 08		1,549.64
	Income		
	Current Account Interest – January		-1.85

Balances Remaining £27,437.21

The Clerk was requested to speak to Quadron to ensure that arrangements for the 2008 contract included notification of grass cutting dates throughout the year.

7316 **Information Reports**

The issue of weed growth on Townsend Pond was raised. It was noted that the Council had been contacted with details of a biological control expert who had had significant success in other parishes. Additionally, it was suggested that the Clerk make enquiries with staff at Dinton Pastures to identify other possible solutions.

The meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....