

## ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE SMALL VILLAGE HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST  
ON MONDAY 28 JULY 2008 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors W. Smith (in the Chair),  
Bowman, Curry, Holdstock, Larkin, J.Martin, P. Martin  
and Stephenson  
OFFICER: Mrs. J. Haines (Clerk)

### 7402 **Vacancies on the Council**

Councillors agreed to seek actively to fill the vacancies.

### 7403 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 June 2008 were approved as a correct record.

### 7404 **Matters Arising**

*7264 - VAS & Traffic Monitoring* – The Chairman commented on the recent reply from WBC. Cllr Drake had agreed to set up a meeting with key WBC staff to pursue the issues.

*7381 - Rental of Council Field*- The Chairman reported the start of negotiations.

### 7405 **Public Forum**

Mr Paul Drayton addressed the Council with his concerns about the future of the Davis Street playing field and in particular, the wish for the simplicity of the park to be retained. The Chairman's response emphasised the need to ensure that statutory safety requirements were met. He stressed however that given the Council's current budget position and intention to re-open the site at the earliest opportunity, major changes were not foreseen at this time.

### 7406 **Police Matters**

RESOLVED: That the report (previously circulated) be noted.

### 7407 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the list of applications attached to these Minutes. Councillor Larkin agreed to prepare responses to the three Sandford Farm applications currently under review.

### 7408 **Provision for Young People in the Parish**

Cllr. J Martin reported the opening of the Twyford Skate Park and noted that its impact on both Twyford and the surrounding areas would be monitored.

### **Play Area Works**

#### 7409 **School Road**

The Chairman reported that final work on the School Road Play Area had been delayed as the railings had been stolen. Discussions were ongoing with the

playground contractor to seek a way forward. The landscaping work had also been postponed pending the submission of appropriate paperwork to Wokingham Borough Council. Cllr Drake was pursuing the issues with WBC direct. A number of scenarios were discussed for the way forward. It was noted that the issues would have implications for the future, including the Christmas festivities.

Cllr Bowman requested that the appreciation of the Parish Council and the people of Hurst for those who had worked for the playground be formally recorded.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) That the ongoing issues be noted
- ii) That the Chairman report the theft of the railings to the Police
- ii) That the Council agree to fund privet hedging to secure the privacy of a neighbouring house.

**7410 Davis Street**

Cllr P Martin presented the tenders received and the options for fencing and for dealing with the rabbit problem on site. There was considerable discussion on the issues raised, the state of the play equipment and the merits of individual options.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) That a new post and rail fence be constructed some 18" within the new fence.
- iii) That the contract for the erection of the fence be awarded to Country Care.
- iii) That changes be made to the entrance gate to accommodate the new fence.
- iv) That appropriate signs be erected along the length of the new fence warning people of a) the dangers of climbing it and b) the presence of rabbit holes throughout the field.
- vi) That agreement be given to the Probation Service clearing the site.
- vii) That, if required, agreement be given to the hire of a mulcher to reduce the arising debris.
- viii) That, once the site has been cleared, Bracknell Pest Control be asked to draw up a appropriate plan of action to reduce the rabbit population on site.
- ix) That the Clerk commission a survey of the current play equipment.
- x) That the decision on the purchase of topsoil be postponed until the September meeting of the Council.

**7411 Traffic Initiatives**

The progress of the petition was discussed and it was agreed that there was a need for specific data to back up current perceptions of speed. Cllr P Martin reported his investigations into the installation of Roadside Vehicle Classifier Systems.

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Drake be approached with a view to facilitating discussions within WBC for the installation of traffic monitoring devices.

**Correspondence:**

Receipt of the following correspondence was noted:

**7412 Town & Parish Charter**

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk draft a reply to WBC broadly supporting the Charter and stressing that the Council should be referred to by its full name throughout.

7413 **Litter Picking and Ad Hoc Duties**

It was noted that the current contract holder had indicated a desire to move on and had requested an increase in hourly rate until a replacement could be found. There was considerable discussion about a replacement and the cost and work of painting the railings around the pond.

RESOLVED:

- i)) That the increase in the hourly rate to £15 be agreed.
- ii) That every effort be made to recruit a replacement, including local advertising.
- iii)) That the Clerk write to the current postholder thanking him for his work and outlining the current recruitment position.

7414 **Resignation**

The Clerk reported that she had written a letter of resignation to the Chairman.

7415 **Finance**

The following accounts were approved for payment this month:

Opening Balance	£42,187.24
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<b>Ref</b>	<b>Expenditure - Payee</b>	
4.1	Thames Water Utilities Tape Lane (11/4 - 6/7/08)	55.22
4.2	Hurst Village Halls (July meeting)	20.25
4.3	SDK (Dog bin emptying 14/5/08-8/7/08)	24.35
4.4	Gavin Verdin (3/4 May - 21/22 June & graffiti paint)	85.00
4.5	J. Haines - Salary	383.96
	Office	40.00
	Mileage	8.37
	Telephone (July)	20.00
		<u>452.33</u>

<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>637.15</u></b>
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**Income**

HM Revenue & Customs (online payment incentive)	100.00
Allotment Rental (3 x £10)	30.00
Current Account Interest	<u>0.32</u>

<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>130.32</u></b>
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Balance as at July Meeting	£41,680.41
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7416 **Information Reports**

Issues raised included the search for a new Chairman for the Village Halls

The meeting ended at 9.55 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....