

## ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE SMALL VILLAGE HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST  
ON MONDAY 08 SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors W. Smith (in the Chair),  
Bowman, Holdstock, Larkin, P. Martin and Stephenson

Borough Councillor Mrs A Drake  
Mr A Lyon  
PCSO Chris Caldwell  
Five Members of the public

OFFICER: Mrs. J. Haines (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors  
Curry and J. Martin

### 7417 **Vacancies on the Council**

A document from Mr Alastair Lyon, seeking co-option to the Council had previously been circulated to all Councillors. Councillors then voted upon the co-option.  
RESOLVED: (nem con) that Mr Alastair Lyon be co-opted as Councillor

### 7418 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 July 2008 were approved as a correct record.

### 7419 **Matters Arising**

7381 - **Rental of Council Field**- The Chairman reported that he was still awaiting a response.

7413 – **Litter Picking and Ad Hoc Duties** – It was agreed that an advert should be placed in the local shop as soon as possible.

### 7420 **Public Forum**

The traffic petition to be presented to WBC on 25 September was discussed. There was considerable debate about the range of issues raised and possible responses. There was general agreement that this was a wide-ranging issue which, for action to be effective, would require joint working and consultation across a number of agencies including WBC, Police Enforcement, the Parish Council, HVS and the villagers of Hurst. It was agreed that any requests at this stage should be presented in general terms and focused on working together to obtain data and hard facts. This in turn should inform decisions which would result in focused initiatives. It was noted that the Police had already provided support in setting up SIDs etc and PCSO Caldwell agreed to check the availability of other police data. Other issues raised included the importance of enforcement and the need for a campaign within the village itself. It was agreed that the petition had been a significant catalyst in raising the profile of the issue and that as many additional signatures as possible should be sent to Councillor Drake (who was to introduce the report to the Council) by 25 September. The Chairman thanked all those who attended for this item for their contributions.

Other issues discussed in the Public Forum included the cutting down of vegetation on Lodge Road, and planning issues.

7421 **Police Matters**

PCSO Chris Caldwell was formally welcomed to his first meeting of the Parish Council and it was hoped that he would enjoy working with Hurst for the foreseeable future.

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

7422 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. Councillor Larkin confirmed that he was finalising the response to the Sandford Farm appeal.

7423 **Provision for Young People in the Parish**

No information was available.

7424 **School Road Play Area Works**

It was noted that the new equipment had proved very popular and was being well used. The Chairman reported that the contractor had agreed to provide a new fence but that there was some delay due to the difficulty of matching the existing design.

The Chairman also reported difficulties in contacting the WBC officer responsible for progressing the applications for further work at the play area. He would continue to pursue this.

It was noted that considerable work was needed to clear and tidy the edge of the area, which could be a task for the Community Volunteers. It was agreed however that the Council would need to be clear in advance as to the exact requirements and that local residents would need to be consulted before any action was taken.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman would lead the consultation exercise with those involved.

7425 **Davis Street Play Area**

Cllr P Martin outlined the work that had been done to date and proposals for additional work for the Community Volunteers on site. In the light of the recent report, discussions included the painting of the play equipment and the further clearing of trees and undergrowth.

Councillor P Martin was thanked for all his hard work in resolving the many issues on site.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the current play equipment be refurbished;
- ii) That agreement be given to the purchase of the necessary paint, spare parts and equipment to complete the work.

7426 **Traffic Initiatives**

It was agreed that issues under this item had been covered in the Public Forum.

7427 **Recruitment of Clerk**

The Clerk reported that she had received over 150 enquiries relating to the vacancy that had been advertised on the Wokingham website and the Maidenhead/Twyford Advertiser.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to appoint a new Clerk to the Council.

7428 **Christmas Lights**

It was noted that the ceremony was to be held at 5pm on Sunday 7 December. The future site for the tree was discussed and there was some concern about arrangements for transportation to the site.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to the Estate Office to request loan of a trailer to transport the tree.

7429 **Autumn Village Clean-up**

Arrangements for the autumn clean-up starting at 9.30 am on Saturday 25 October were discussed. It was agreed that two skips should be placed in the Village Halls car park and two at the entrance to the Davis Street Play Area.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make the necessary arrangements with WBC.

**Correspondence:**

7430 **Wokingham Borough Core Strategy**

The Clerk reported receipt of the Wokingham Borough Core Strategy which detailed a range of policies and identified where development could go within the Borough to 2026. It was noted that the deadline for comments was 1 October 2008.

7431 **Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East (the South East Plan)**

Receipt of the consultation document on the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East was noted. The deadline for comments to GOSE was 24 October.

7432 **Conference/Seminar attendance**

Attendance at the following seminars was agreed

- (i) Town & Parish Conference – Councillor Curry
- (ii) Planning Policy Update Briefing for Town and Parish Councils – Chairman & Councillor Larkin

7433 **Finance**

The following accounts were approved for payment this month:

		£
Previous Balance		41,762.41
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Expenditure – Payee</b>	
6.1	Southern Electric ( <i>School Road May-Aug</i> )	15.57
6.2	Baylis & Co ( <i>Clerks Advert -Advertiser</i> )	152.75
6.3	Hurst Village Halls ( <i>Sept meeting</i> )	25.88
6.4	Quadron ( <i>Grass cutting July</i> )	102.38
6.5	SDK Environmental ( <i>dog bins 9/7 - 2/9/08</i> )	24.35
6.6	The Play Inspection Company ( <i>Davis Street report</i> )	176.25
6.7	J Haines	
	<i>Salary - Aug &amp; Sept</i>	767.92
	<i>Office - Aug &amp; Sep</i>	80.00
	<i>Telephone - Aug &amp; Sept</i>	40.00
	<i>Mileage</i>	8.37
6.8	P Martin ( <i>key cutting - Davis Street Playground</i> )	<u>14.25</u>
	Aug/September	
	Total	<u>1407.72</u>
<b>Income</b>		
	Bank Interest – July	<u>1.75</u>
	 New Balance	 40,356.44

**Information Reports:**

7434 **Almshouses**

Cllr Martin reported that the Community Workers would be carrying out work on the driveway of the Almshouses

7435 **Pond Railings**

Ways of tackling the painting and cleaning of the railings around the pond were discussed.

The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....