

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE SMALL VILLAGE HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST
ON MONDAY 06 OCTOBER 2008 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors W. Smith (in the Chair),
Bowman, Curry, Holdstock, Lyon (part meeting),
J. Martin and P. Martin

Borough Councillor Mrs A Drake

One Member of the Public

OFFICERS: Mrs. J. Haines (Clerk)
Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk Designate)

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from
Councillors Larkin and Stephenson

7434 **Vacancies on the Council**

It was noted that the Council was still seeking to fill the remaining vacancy

7435 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 08 September 2008 were approved as a correct record.

7436 **Matters Arising**

7381 - **Rental of Council Field**- The Chairman reported that no further contact had been received.

7413 – **Police Matters** - It was noted that PCSO Caldwell had now been replaced by PCSO Jonathan Stanley

7437 **Public Forum**

Mr G Fewtrill raised three issues:

- i) The state of the verges and ditches in the village;
- ii) Issues concerning the need to purchase bags for rubbish collection;
- iii) Speeding Issues. There was considerable discussion on this topic and a range of views and possible solutions were raised. The Chairman outlined the action undertaken by the Parish Council and it was noted that solutions would require the input of other agencies such as police enforcement to be effective.

The Chairman thanked Mr Fewtrill for attending the meeting.

7438 **Police Matters**

No police statistics were available for discussion. A recent event in Twyford was noted.

7439 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. Councillor Bowman raised the issue of information on the new regulations and it was agreed that further information would be circulated as soon as it was received.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to WBC to clarify the nature of the structure in a current appeal re breach of planning control.

7440 **Provision for Young People in the Parish**

No information was available as no meetings had taken place.

7441 **School Road Play Area Works**

The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had had a very positive meeting with key staff from WBC Highways. Subject to certain conditions, the Street Licence would be granted and a planting plan was currently being drawn up for approval.

The play equipment company had confirmed that a new fence had been ordered to replace the original.

Councillor P. Martin reported that the Community Service volunteers were now unlikely to be able to start work in the Recreation Ground until November. It was noted that the Chairman wished to carry out further enquiries before the formal consultation letters could be sent.

The Clerk reported receipt of a complaint concerning the play equipment. It was noted that all appropriate safety checks and consultations had been carried out.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the fencing around the Gas Governor be removed, other than a small length at the rear of the footpath to stop cars exiting the lay-by onto Wards Cross.
- ii) That expenditure be authorised for paint and equipment for the proposed improvements up to an agreed limit
- iii) That agreement to be given to improve the entrance to the park up to an agreed limit
- iv) That Parish Councillors meet on site to discuss an appropriate position for the Christmas tree.

7442 **Davis Street Play Area**

The implications of the recent Play Inspection Company report were discussed. It was noted that they had clarified that the fence presented a low risk for the play equipment alone but that if more active sports such as football were played, then the risks were obviously higher. The Chairman therefore proposed removal of the goalposts to negate the need for immediate action on the fence.

The site clearance work had raised a new issue concerning the right hand boundary. Previous attempts to establish ownership had proved unsuccessful. The work had resulted in a neighbouring garden being open to the field and the

owner had agreed to make a contribution towards a new fence. Initial tenders had been received and further were being sought.

It was noted that the objective remained to get the playground open as soon as possible. It was felt that there were insufficient funds to install two new fences and that priority should be given to enclose the property on the right. Other issues raised included the work done to date, the large amount of debris on site resulting from the clearance work and the costs of mulching.

RESOLVED:

- i) That work on replacement of the fence on the left hand side be deferred;
- ii) That appropriate tenders be sought for a new fence on the right hand side;
- iii) That the Council agree to contribute towards the cost of the replacement fence on the right hand side, up to an agreed figure;
- iv) That appropriate tenders be sought for mulching;
- v) That the goalposts be removed from the park until such time as work on the left hand fence had taken place;
- vi) That a consultation exercise be undertaken within the local area to establish the wishes of residents.

7443 Grants and Donations:

RESOLVED:

- i) That the following grants and donations be agreed:

Keep Mobile:	£700
Readibus	£450
Berkshire County Blind Society:	£ 50
Twyford, Wokingham & District Volunteer Centre	£ 50

- ii) That the annual subscription of £30 be paid to CCB.

- iii) That the contribution to the Cricket Club be reviewed in January

7444 Recognition of Voluntary Assistance

The Chairman highlighted the difficulties faced by the Council to reward the efforts of volunteers. It was noted that although certain rewards were ultra vires, powers existed that could be used to recognise specific initiatives.

RESOLVED: That, under S145(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council support a reception for the Community Service Volunteers to recognise their efforts in the Village.

7445 Recruitment of Clerk

The Chairman reported the appointment of Mrs Maria Bradshaw as Clerk to the Council. Mrs Bradshaw was formally welcomed to the Council. It was noted that she and the current Clerk would work together to ensure that the final handover was completed after the next meeting.

Correspondence:

7446 Proposed Closure of St Nicholas Churchyard

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the Ministry of Justice notifying the Council of the publication of the draft notice of closure for the St Nicholas Churchyard.

- 7447 **Changes to Bus Services**
WBC had notified changes to local bus services 126,127,128 and 129 from Monday 27 October 2008.
- 7448 **Publication of the Joint Minerals and Waste Core Strategy DPD.**
The Clerk reported notification of the production of the Local Development Framework to guide the future of mineral extraction and waste management and disposal in Berkshire. Representations were invited by 27 October 2008.
- 7449 **The Making and Enforcement of Byelaws**
A consultation paper had been received from the Department for Communities and Local Government inviting views on the proposed new procedure to enable authorities to make certain byelaws without the need for scrutiny by the Secretary of State and about proposals for a new enforcement regime for byelaws. The Consultation ran to 20 November
- 7450 **WBC WISPA Awards**
WBC had requested nominations for the WISPA Awards (Wokingham's Inspirational Staff and Partners Awards) to recognize commitment and hard work of their staff. Nominations were requested by Friday 17 October.
- 7451 **Hurst Golf Clubhouse**
The Clerk reported that she had been contacted asking for the views of the Council on the proposed closure of the Hurst Golf Clubhouse from 31 October. It was noted that this was part of the proposals for the future of Dinton Pastures and should therefore be pursued with Wokingham Borough Council direct.
- 7452 **Finance**
The following accounts were approved for payment this month:

Previous Balance 40,356.44

Ref Expenditure – Payee

7.1	Wicksteed (<i>paint for play equipment</i>)		101.65
7.2	Hurst Village Halls (<i>Oct meeting</i>)		33.68
7.3	M Holdstock (<i>reimbursement for School Rd plants</i>)		155.10
7.4	P Martin (<i>reimbursement for items re Davis Street</i>)		62.23
7.5	J Haines		
	<i>Salary – Oct</i>	83.96	
	<i>Office – Oct</i>	40.00	
	<i>Telephone – Oct</i>	20.00	
	<i>Mileage</i>	16.74	
	<i>Stationery</i>	54.23	
	<i>Postage</i>	5.05	<u>519.98</u>

October Total 872.64

Income

Bank Interest – August	2.32
Precept -September	<u>9,750.00</u>
	<u>9,752.32</u>

New Balance 49,236.12

Councillor Holdstock was thanked for organising the purchase of the laurel bushes for School Road, which had now been planted.

Information Reports:

7453 **NAG**

Councillor Curry reported that she had attended the last NAG meeting. She had agreed to undertake a survey to establish local views and was currently ensuring the most effective response by surveying residents herself across three areas within the Village.

7454 **Hurst Village Halls**

Councillor Curry reported that the Village Halls were still seeking a Chairman. At the last meeting, a request had been put forward that the pre-school have sole lease of the small hall during the day from September to July. A number of issues were raised in discussion, including the potential reduction of facilities for Hurst residents and increased income/security for the future of the halls.

7455 **Christmas Arrangements**

Initial arrangements for the Christmas lights celebrations were discussed.

The meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....