

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE SMALL VILLAGE HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST
ON MONDAY 10th November 2008 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

Borough Councillor Mrs A Drake (part meeting)

One Member of the Public

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from
Councillors Curry and Holdstock

7456 **Vacancies on the Council**

It was noted that the Council was still seeking to fill the remaining vacancy. This now needs to be re-advertised as a casual vacancy. Councillor Stephenson stated that he will be stepping down from the Council and that his last meeting will be December 2008.

7457 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 06 October 2008 were approved as a correct record.

7458 **Matters Arising**

7451 – Hurst Golf Clubhouse – Councillor Stephenson expressed his disappointment regarding the closure of the clubhouse as part of the decision reached on Dinton Pastures by Wokingham Borough Council, despite the Parish Council's objections. It was noted that buildings from the major development at Winnersh Triangle Industrial Estate are now visible from the country park.

With regards to future proposals for Dinton Pastures, it was agreed that the appropriate officer should be invited to a meeting of the Parish Council to discuss.

RESOLVED: That, following discussion with the local Councillor, the appropriate WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL officer be invited to a future meeting to outline proposals for Dinton Pastures

7459 **Public Forum**

Mr G. Fewtrill raised three issues:

- i) The state of the blocked drains in the village. This is a matter he has written to Wokingham Borough Council regarding. The Chairman agreed that this was a problem and agreed that the Parish Council would contact the Borough Council.
- ii) The current condition of the main duck pond in the village. Surface algae is very bad at present and although this issue has been addressed before it was agreed that officers at Dinton Pastures would be contacted again for advice; and
- iii) Recycling. A failure to collect recycling had resulted in three telephone calls to the Borough Council.

The Chairman thanked Mr Fewtrill for attending the meeting.

7460 **Police Matters**

Police statistics were noted. The Chairman reported that the TVPA had indicated the need for more support for the local Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) and that he would try to seek additional members.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to contact the PCSO to request more detailed information in future.

7461 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes.

Councillor Larkin confirmed that the Council's statement regarding planning application F/2008/1748, Luffs Farm, had been submitted to The Planning Inspectorate.

7462 **Provision for Young People in the Parish**

It was noted that the small amount of graffiti had now been removed.

7463 **School Road Play Area Works**

It was noted that the planting plan had now been submitted and a response is awaited. Councillor P. Martin reported that the fences should be painted by the end of next week.

The Chairman and Councillor P. Martin reported that the Community Service volunteers had commenced clearance work and that the area was approximately 70% clear. The Chairman requested additional help from other Councillors in supervising the Community Service volunteers.

Some discussion was held on the clearance and ownership of the ditches.

RESOLVED:

i) That expenditure be authorised for a new blade and chain for the borrowed chainsaw.

7464 **Davis Street Play Area**

The Chairman gave an update on the current position. It was noted that the cost of the adjoining fence was to be partly shared with the landowner. The Chairman was also seeking quotes for levelling the land.

A letter received from another adjoining property owner was discussed. The issue focused on the amount of undergrowth that had been cut down and the need for additional protection. The Clerk will write to the landowner outlining the Parish Council's views.

It was noted that the objective remained to get the playground open as soon as possible. At this stage the local community will be consulted with regarding what facilities they would like to see at Davis Street.

Other issues raised included clearance of debris, the rabbits and the cost of mulching. Councillor Stephenson noted that a quote should be sought regarding the professional disposal of the debris – so relieving the pressure falling on individual Councillors.

RESOLVED:

i) That the Clerk relay the views of the Parish Council in response to the letter received;

ii) That appropriate quotes be sought regarding the clearing of debris and mulching; and

iii) That a consultation exercise be undertaken within the local area to establish the wishes of residents.

7465 **Traffic Initiatives**

Following a recent meeting with WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL, discussion was held on the positioning of the VAS and speeding issues. The Chairman confirmed that he had passed details of the preferred locations for speeding strips to Wokingham Borough Council.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to Wokingham Borough Council requesting an update on the positioning of the VAS.

7466 **Christmas Arrangements**

The Chairman confirmed that arrangements have been made for the Christmas tree. The area is prepared and new lights are to be ordered. It was suggested that consideration be given to insuring the Christmas lights given their high replacement cost.

Further discussions were held around the catering arrangements and the band.

The switching on of the lights was discussed and it was agreed that Reverend Coombes would be invited to perform the official ceremony this year. It was agreed that representatives from different organisations should be invited to conduct the ceremony in subsequent years.

Some discussions were held around the highways issues regarding the placement of the tree. Wokingham Borough Council and the Police will be contacted. It was agreed that traffic may be less of an issue this year given the timing of the event on a Sunday.

The issue of a formal risk assessment, particularly covering more vulnerable items of equipment such as the flood lights, was discussed. The Parish Council needs to ensure that due precautions are taken.

RESOLVED:

- i) The Clerk to order the new Christmas lights;
- ii) The Clerk to contact the insurers to obtain a quote for insuring the Christmas lights;
- iii) The Chairman will contact Reverend Coombs inviting him to switch the lights on;
- iv) The Parish Council to contact both Highways and the Police regarding the placement of the tree; and
- v) A risk assessment to be undertaken.

7467 HVS Newsletter Contribution

The Chairman explained that he had been approached by HVS requesting a contribution. The Chairman noted that over the years the Parish Council had been helped and supported by HVS, particularly in terms of the newsletter. Given that HVS was providing a useful service for the Council, a contribution would therefore seem reasonable. Some discussion was held around the feasibility of this.

RESOLVED:

- i) The Clerk to ascertain the legality of making any such financial contribution.

7468 Finance

The following accounts were presented for payment this month:

Accounts - November 2008

	£	£
Previous Balance		49,236.12

Ref	Expenditure - Payee		
8.1	Thames Water (<i>Tape Lane Allotments</i>)		47.20
8.2	Twyford, Wargrave & District Vol Centre		50.00
8.3	CCB (<i>Annual Subscription</i>)		30.00
8.4	Keep Mobile		700.00
8.5	Readibus		450.00
8.6	Berkshire County Blind Society		50.00
8.7	Cllr Paul Martin (<i>reimbursement School Rd</i>)		92.30
8.8	Hurst Village Halls (<i>Nov meeting</i>)		33.68
8.9	SDK Environmental (<i>Dog bins 3/9 - 28/10/08</i>)		24.35
8.10	M. Bradshaw	<i>Salary from 13/10 & Nov</i>	605.31
		<i>Office</i>	60.00
		<i>Mileage</i>	11.56
		<i>Telephone Handset</i>	19.99
			696.86
8.11	J Haines	<i>Salary to 14/11/08</i>	201.77
		<i>Arrears (interim pay award from 1.4.08)</i>	140.14
		<i>Office</i>	20.00
		<i>Phone</i>	10.00
		<i>Mileage</i>	17.34
		<i>Stationery</i>	4.78
			<u>394.03</u>
		Total Expenditure	<u>2,568.42</u>
	Income		
	Bank Interest Sept		2.18
	Bank Interest Oct		<u>2.16</u>
		Total Income	<u>4.34</u>
		Revised balance	46,672.04

It was noted that the figures reflected the recently agreed interim pay and mileage allowance award for Clerks.

Correspondence:

7469 Local Safety Scheme: Hinton Road/B3018 Waltham Road

Proposed works and signage along the Hinton Road and B3018 were discussed and put to the vote (four Councillors in favour, one against and two abstained).

RESOLVED: That the scheme be supported

7470 Local Enquiry into Appeal by Sandford Lane Properties Ltd. re application F/2007/2008/1690

Parish Councillors were reminded of the appeal to be held on the 2nd December 2008.

7471 WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL Core Strategy

Previous consultation resulted in a number of responses and Wokingham Borough Council is now seeking views on these suggestions by the 17th December 2008. Councillor Larkin agreed to prepare the response on behalf of the Parish Council.

7472 MS Therapy Centre Berkshire

The Parish Council has received a request for financial assistance from the MS Therapy Centre Berkshire.

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to MS Therapy Centre Berkshire regarding refusal of requested grant for 2008/09.

7473 Other Consultations

The following closing dates for submission of comments were noted:

South East Plan: Public Consultation on Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people – consultation closes 21st November 2008;

Communities in Control: real people, real power: codes of conduct for local authority members and employees – a consultation – deadline for comments 24th December 2008; and

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service: Five Year Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) – 2009/10 Action Plan – consultation ends 18th January 2009.

Closure of St Nicholas Churchyard: An additional exemption clause has been included. Comments within 21 days of the date of notice.

7474 Sports Personality of the Year

The Chairman has been invited to attend the Sports Personality of the Year 2008 Awards Ceremony.

7475 Change of Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that there was a problem regarding attendance at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk make arrangements to change the date of the next meeting to 15th December 2008.

7476 Dog Fouling

There was some discussion about the issues of dog fouling in the playground areas and the Parish Council's ability to make and enforce by-laws.

RESOLVED: To ask the staff at Dinton Pastures for guidance on their current procedures

The meeting ended at 9.50 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....