

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE SMALL VILLAGE HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST
ON MONDAY 12th January 2009 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors W. Smith (in the Chair),
Curry, Holdstock, Larkin, Lyon,
P. Martin.

N. Christo (Area Manager, North)

Councillors J Martin, A. Drake (in part)

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Cllr V. Bowman

7497 Vacancies on the Council

It was noted that the Council was seeking to fill two vacancies.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to send Cllr Holdstock the vacancy pro forma with a view to displaying it on the Council notice boards.

7498 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th December 2008 were approved as a correct record.

7499 Matters Arising

7485 Traffic initiatives – some discussion was held around the seven traffic strips which have been placed throughout the Parish. It was agreed that the raw data would be useful to analyse.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to contact WBC to obtain raw data from the recent traffic survey.

7486 – Parish and Town Council's Charter

RESOLVED: the Charter to be formally adopted by the Parish Council and signed by the Clerk.

7491 CAB and WADE – a request for financial assistance has been received from both of these organisations.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to contact both organisations for further information before any financial assistance is granted.

7500 Nick Christo, Area Manager (North)

Mr Christo was welcomed to the meeting and outlined to the Parish Council his role. He explained his responsibility for service delivery within the area and how he endeavours to bridge any gaps between the Parish, Borough and their various partners. He operates a drop in session from his base at Woodley Library, every Tuesday between 10am and 12noon. The Chairman advised Mr Christo that the Parish Council have a good working relationship with the Borough Council. Other Councillors raised issues regarding inadequacies with crass cutting, gully/ditch cleaning and thistle problems at Church Hill. Planning and traffic issues remain the two major issues for the Parish.

RESOLVED: the Parish Council to work closely with Mr Christo and use him as a first point of contact where required.

7501 Police Matters

Police statistics were not available at this meeting, despite having been requested by the Clerk.

RESOLVED: Nick Christo to provide the Clerk with e-mail address to enable statistics to be obtained.

7502 Planning Applications

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes.

The Parish Council has no adverse comments relating to either new planning application F/2008/2644 or LB/2008/2717.

Councillor Larkin confirmed that the Public Planning Inquiry relating to Luffs Farm, had been set for the 15th and 16th January 2009. This is the highest level of appeal and is expected to take more than a day. Councillor Larkin will appear at the appeal on behalf of the Parish Council and welcomed any further support from other Councillors.

Some discussion was held around the Sandford Farm briefing which took place at Wokingham Borough Council Offices on the 19th December 2008. The meeting was well represented by St Nicholas Hurst Parish Council and there was high attendance. Facilities at WBC were considered disappointing and inadequate to accommodate the higher than anticipated public attendance.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to convey the Parish Council's "NAC" regarding planning applications F/2008/2744 and LB/2008/2717.

7503 Provision for Young People in the Parish

There was no update to report to this meeting.

7504 School Road Play Area Works

The fence has now been completed at School Road and the final invoice for this project can be paid. The Chairman confirmed that he will contact WBC with a view to completing landscape/planting works.

RESOLVED: The Chairman to contact WBC to discuss timings regarding the planting plan and landscaping works.

7505 Davis Street Play Area

The Chairman confirmed that the site is now largely clear and a person has been sourced to deal with the rabbits. The Chairman signed a disclaimer allowing the person to access the site and undertake the necessary work.

RESOLVED: the clerk to forward the Chairman's authority to the rabbit contact.

7506 Traffic Initiatives

It was noted that seven traffic strips have now been located throughout the Parish and that the results from this exercise are imminently due. Councillors would like the raw data to be made available and information communicated via notice boards, HVS newsletter and Post Office notice board.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to contact WBC to obtain the raw data.

7507 Parish and Town Council's Charter

The Parish and Town Council's Charter was formally adopted by St Nicholas Hurst Parish Council and signed by the Clerk.

7508 Finance

The following accounts were presented for payment this month:

Accounts - January 2009

	£	£
Previous Balance		49,574.46
Ref Expenditure - Payee		
10.1 Fencing Products Ltd		2,704.80
10.2 R & J Services		329.00
10.3 Hurst Village Halls (Jan. Meeting)		33.68
10.4 M. Bradshaw		
	<i>Salary Dec</i>	<i>403.54</i>
	<i>Office</i>	<i>60.00</i>
	<i>Postage</i>	<i>1.14</i>
	<i>Stationery</i>	<i>8.28</i>
		472.96
10.5 Expenses Cllr H Larkin		13.50
10.6 Expenses Cllr W Smith		252.61
10.7 SDK Environmental Ltd 29/10/08 - 23/12/08		23.83
10.8 2009 subscription Society of Local Council Clerks		94.00
	Total Expenditure	3,924.38
Income		
Contribution to Davis Street Fencing		1754
Current a/c bank interest - Jan 09		1.77
Deposit a/c bank interest - Jan 09		667.56
	Total Income	2423.33
	Revised balance	48,073.41

7509 External Audit report 2007/08

The Clerk confirmed that the external audit report for 2007/08 had been received and that the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 require sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Annual Return to be displayed. It is sufficient for this to be displayed on the Parish Council's website. The Parish Council are also required to display a "Notice" for a period of at least 14 days which has to be placed on the Parish Council notice boards.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to scan all documents to Parish Councillors. Cllr P. Martin to place Annual Return on Parish Council website. "Notice" to be displayed on Parish Council notice boards.

7510 Budget 2009/10

Councillors considered a draft budget for 2009/10. The budget and commitments for the forthcoming year were discussed. There was considerable discussion with a number of issues raised.

RESOLVED:

- i) the budget be approved (agreed budget attached).
- ii) the precept for 2009/10 be set at £21,000.
- iii) the Clerk to make the necessary returns to WBC.

Correspondence

7511 **Admissions Scheme**

Wokingham Borough Council invites comments on its proposed coordinated admissions scheme and arrangements for entry to schools in 2010-2011. Comments are invited by no later than the 28th February 2009.

RESOLVED: Councillor Lyon to arrange for information to be circulated.

Information Reports

7512 Councillor Lyon advised the group of a tidy up which had taken place by the village halls. The clearance of rubbish is being dealt with by Hurst Village Halls.

The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....