

## **ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE SMALL VILLAGE HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST  
ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

Councillor A. Drake (in part)

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk)

### **7513 Vacancies on the Council**

A document from Mrs. Rosemary Dry, seeking co-option to the Council had previously been circulated to all Councillors. Councillors then voted upon the co-option.

RESOLVED: That Mrs. Rosemary Dry be co-opted as a Councillor.

### **7514 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009 were approved as a correct record.

### **7515 Matters Arising**

7501 Police Matters – some discussion was held around the availability of police statistics. The Council are able to view the Police website which provides data on Hurst, Charvil and Sonning. However, there is a reluctance to provide the information previously supplied. The Parish Council has yet to meet its new PCSO.

RESOLVED: to liaise with the Police and new PCSO.

### **7516 David Soane, Independent Member of Standards Committee**

Mr Soane was welcomed to the meeting and outlined to the Parish Council his role. His attendance at the meeting was purely observatory and to gain a greater understanding as to how the Parish Council operates.

**7517 Police Matters**

Police statistics were not available at this meeting. Councillor Curry stated that she had been contacted by a local newspaper who stated that crime had increased in the Parish. She was unable to comment on the reported statistics.

A new PCSO is due to be appointed next month.

RESOLVED: the Parish Council will continue to liaise with the Police. The new PCSO will be invited to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**7518 Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes.

Councillor Larkin provided some feedback on the Public Planning Inquiry relating to Luffs Farm which took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009. It was agreed that the site visit undertaken by the Inspector helped to secure the final decision.

**7519 Provision for Young People in the Parish**

Councillor J. Martin provided an update. It was noted that there is generally an increase in graffiti and disturbances involving young people. Some discussion was held around the skate park at Kings Meadow, Reading. A cycle path is required to get from the village to the skate park and the issue of routes was discussed.

RESOLVED: consideration is given to possible routes for the cycle path.

**7520 School Road Play Area Works**

The Chairman confirmed that planting needs to commence in March 2009. WBC is disputing having received the planting plan and other relevant documents from the previous clerk.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to re-send the planting plan and associated documents to the officer at WBC, so enabling landscaping works to commence in March 2009.

**7521 Davis Street Play Area**

The Chairman confirmed that the site is now largely clear. Some discussion was held around the rabbit issue and how successful the person dealing with the rabbits had been. Members are keen to get the site re-opened as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: the clerk to obtain an update from the rabbit contact.

## 7522 Traffic Initiatives

The Chairman updated Members on a meeting he had attended that day at WBC. Data from the recent traffic strips indicates similar results to that of three years ago. Members highlighted that they would be keen to obtain the raw data although WBC seem reluctant to release it. Further discussions were held around:

- the positing of the VAS and mobile signs and their respective merits;
- other traffic calming measures such as the positioning of three possible gated entrances to the village and signage in general;
- the sourcing of a lollipop person;
- access issues around Church Hill;
- the declassification of the A321M; and
- the traffic issues in Sonning PC and how they have addressed them including liaison with the Police.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to contact Sonning PC with a view to seeking advice on how they have dealt with their traffic issues.

## 7523 Finance

The following accounts were presented for payment this month:

### Accounts - February 2009

	£	£
Previous Balance		48,073.41
<b>Ref Expenditure - Payee</b>		
11.1 Hurst Village Halls Feb.09		33.68
11.2 Thames Water 10/10/08-14/1/09 (Tape Lane Allotments)		6.64
11.3 M. Bradshaw		
	<i>Salary Feb 09</i>	
	<i>Office</i>	
	<i>Stationery</i>	
	<u>403.54</u>	<u>488.13</u>
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>528.45</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Current a/c interest Jan 09		<u>1.58</u>
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1.58</b>
	<b>Revised balance</b>	<b>47,546.54</b>

## 7524 Forthcoming events inc. Borough Wide Litter Campaign

Members agreed that they would prefer to continue with a Hurst litter pick as opposed to joining the Borough wide litter pick day. It was considered that the Borough wide day would be less well supported as it is planned for a Sunday when many villagers attend morning worship.

RESOLVED: Hurst PC litter pick to be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The Clerk to make arrangements with WBC for the delivery of skips, bags and litter sticks.

### **7525 Surface Water Management Plan**

The Clerk outlined how the Borough Council wishes to meet with the Parish Council and be shown areas within the village which are particularly prone to flooding.

RESOLVED: Councillors Larkin, Curry and Holdstock to meet with WBC's drainage officer to highlight flood areas.

### **Correspondence**

#### **7526 Handyman**

Some discussions were held around the handyman, Kevin Guy from Greenfingers, and what specific tasks he will be engaged to undertake:

£150 to burn trees and shrubs;  
£300 to paint railings at village pond (including strimming);  
Nominal charge to clean play area at Wards Cross; and  
Nominal charge to treat knot weeds as and when.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to Mr Guy accepting his quotation to undertake specific jobs within the village. A further quote be obtained for clearing the weeping trees around the village pond. Councillor Curry to obtain a reference.

#### **7527 Masterplanning our Strategic Development Locations**

The Clerk reminded members that any comments on the above consultation paper are required by the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

#### **7528 Admissions**

WBC is inviting comments on its proposed coordinated admissions scheme and arrangement for entry into schools in 2010-11. Councillor Annette Drake informed members that she had already expressed her concerns to WBC. Applications for the village school are heavily oversubscribed and children outside of the parish are gaining places over residents. Traffic issues are also a concern with increased vehicles being driven into the village.

REOSLVED: the Clerk to write to WBC pledging support for the comments previously raised by Councillor Drake.

**7529 Land near allotments at Martineau Lane**

Some discussions were held regarding land near the Parish allotments and the registering of access rights in front of a specific property. WBC has confirmed that an original Land Registry error has resulted in some ambiguity. However, the Council is taking every step to protect its assets. Any proposal for implementing these rights and seeking to develop the allotments would have to go through the normal planning process. This would include the opportunity for residents and other interested parties to comment on the proposals. The process would also address the issue of the potential loss of some of the allotments. WBC's intention is to complete the registration process with the Land Registry.

**Information Reports**

**7530 Bins at Martineau Lane Park**

Some discussions were held regarding the dog fouling issues in Martineau Lane Park and the updating of signage.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to contact WBC regarding upgrading of signage.

The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....