

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE SMALL VILLAGE HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST
ON MONDAY 16th March 2009 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

Councillor P. Martin (in part).

Councillor A. Drake

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk)

7531 Vacancies on the Council

It was noted that one vacancy remains on the Parish Council and the Clerk has received no approaches.

7532 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9th February 2009 were approved as a correct record.

7533 Matters Arising

7501 Police Matters – some discussion was held around the availability of police statistics. Members expressed their frustration and disappointment that the Council can make little progress with meeting the new PCSO or their superiors.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to contact the Police expressing concerns and requesting meeting with PCSO.

Public Forum

7534 Councillor Drake updated Members on the appeal on Warren Farm. Discussion was also held regarding Hurst Lodge and the rental of the listed building. It is believed an application is currently being compiled.

7535 Police Matters

Police statistics were not available at this meeting.

7536 Planning Applications

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes.

No adverse comments were made regarding application F/2009/0229. Planning application F/2009/0320 has now been withdrawn. Lengthy discussion was held around planning application F/2009/0323 which Members had many objections to. Member's comments regarding the remaining new applications will be forwarded to the Clerk by the due date.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to express the Parish Council's objections to WBC regarding application F/2009/0323.

7537 Provision for Young People in the Parish

Councillor J. Martin provided an update. It was noted that there is generally an increase in graffiti. 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.

7538 School Road Play Area Works

The Chairman confirmed that planting needs to commence in March 2009 and that he will be contacting WBC to progress the matter. Discussions were also held around the fencing required and the problems associated with dogs from adjoining properties.

RESOLVED: The Chairman to liaise with WBC Officers to agree planting plan arrangements. The Clerk to liaise with the Dog Warden regarding signage and fouling.

7539 Davis Street Play Area

The Chairman thanked Councillor Holdstock for his assistance in clearing the remaining debris at Davis Street. The park is now scheduled to be opened for the Easter break. Some discussion was held around the merits or otherwise of consulting with residents regarding the facilities offered at the park. This will be considered at a later date once the park has been fully re-opened.

RESOLVED: the park to be re-opened in time for the Easter break.

7540 Traffic Initiatives

The Chairman and Councillor Drake are currently trying to arrange a meeting with WBC to guide them around the village highlighting the key problem areas.

WBC is still reluctant to release the raw data derived from the recent traffic survey. Some discussion was held around requesting key statistics in the absence of the raw data itself. Councillor Drake agreed to raise the matter at full Council including the positioning of the mobile VAS.

RESOLVED: The Chairman and Councillor Drake to continue to liaise with WBC and try to gain data/statistics which will highlight the key problem areas.

7541 Finance

The following accounts were presented for payment this month:

Accounts - March 2009

	£	£
Previous Balance		47,546.54
Ref Expenditure - Payee		
12.1 Playdale Playgrounds Ltd		1530.65
12.2 Playdale Playgrounds Ltd		15,783.78
12.3 SDK Environmental Services Ltd		23.83
12.4 Southern Electric (16/11/08-16/2/09)		26.89
12.5 K. Guy (Litter/graffiti, 4hrs bonfire, diesel)		100.00
12.6 Hurst Village Hall (March 09)		33.68
12.7 M. Bradshaw	403.54	
	Office	60.00
	Stationery	<u>29.77</u>
		493.31
12.8 H. Larkin (Land Registry searches)		54.00
12.9 K. Guy (11/3/09 tidy up park)		<u>10.00</u>
Total Expenditure		18,056.14
Income		
Current a/c interest Feb 09		<u>1.13</u>
Total Income		1.13
Revised balance		29,491.53

The Clerk estimates the VAT rebate for 2008/09 to be approximately £3,400. The VAT return will be submitted to HMRC at the end of the financial year.

7542 Litter Pick 28/3/09

Arrangements are in place in respect of the village litter pick on the 28th March 2009. Provision has been made for delivery of skips, bags, tabards and litter sticks.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to arrange collection of litter sticks.

7543 Surface Water Management Plan

Councillor Larkin briefed members on the recent meeting between himself, Councillors Holdstock and Curry and WBC. Drainage officers were escorted around the village and known problem areas highlighted.

Correspondence

7544 Handyman

Some discussions were held around the handyman, Kevin Guy from Greenfingers. A quote has been received in the value of £480 to clear trees from around the village pond. Concerns were raised regarding the undertaking of work which may impinge upon the highway and the necessity for contractors to hold a valid street licence.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to Mr Guy asking whether he holds a current street licence.

7545 Community Council for Berkshire – Affordable Housing for Local People

Correspondence has been received from the Community Council for Berkshire who has been approached by Sovereign Housing Association, a WBC development partner, about a possible site for a rural exception development in Hurst. Their representative is happy to come and meet the Parish Council and to discuss her role and the process.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed that it was not necessary at this stage to invite any representative to the Parish Council meeting.

7546 Local Safety Scheme – Waltham Road and Hinton road

Members were advised of upcoming local safety highway improvement works scheduled for 23rd -27th March 2009 in the Waltham Road and Hinton Road area.

7547 Request for financial assistance

Requests have been received from:
Berkshire County Blind Society – two of their 2061 members live in Hurst.
CAB – 146 problems from residents in Hurst.
WADE – one member living in Hurst.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to ascertain what financial assistance can be provided, if any.

7548 BFBC Local Development Framework – Amen Corner Area Action Plan

Notification has been received regarding the publication of the Draft Submission version of the Amen Corner Action Plan and the Draft Submissions Proposals Plan. The publication period will last for six weeks until the 23/3/09.

7549 Hogmoor Lane

Councillors expressed their concerns regarding a recent presentation made by WBC planning regarding Hogmoor Lane. The presentation was felt to be biased and the photographic evidence not representative.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to contact WBC expressing the Parish Council's concerns.

Information Reports

7550 Land Owned by the Council and the boundaries

Councillor Larkin presented his report on the land owned by the Parish Council and the boundaries.

RESOLVED: Members to consider the findings of Councillor Larkin's report and any further action required.

The meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....