

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE SMALL VILLAGE HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST
ON MONDAY 11th May 2009 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

Councillor A. Drake.

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk)

7567 Membership of the New Council and Declarations of Acceptance

Declarations of Acceptance were signed by Councillor Mrs Rosemary Dry.

7568 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

7569 Election of Chairman

RESOLVED: that Councillor Wayne Smith be elected Chairman for the current Municipal Year.

7570 Election of Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED: that Councillor Mrs. Jan Martin be elected as Vice-Chairman for the current Municipal Year.

7571 Vacancies on the Council

It was noted that one vacancy remains on the Parish Council.

7572 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 20th April 2009 were approved as a correct record.

7573 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

Public Forum

7574 Councillor Drake updated Members on the two day public hearing on Warren Farm.

7575 **Appointment of Committees**

RESOLVED: that members be appointed to the following Committees for the current Municipal Year:

Allotments, Playing Fields and Ponds – Councillors Smith, P. Martin and Larkin.
Footpaths and Rights of Way – Councillors Smith, Bowman, P. Martin and Lyon.

7576 **Appointments of Representatives on Outside Bodies**

RESOLVED: that members be appointed to represent the Council as indicated:

Village Halls – Councillor Mrs Curry.
Police Interface – Councillor Mrs Dry.
Campaign Against Waste – Councillor Mrs Bowman.
Parish Web Site Co-ordinator – Councillor P. Martin.
Campaign to Protect Rural England – Councillor Larkin.

7577 **Police Matters**

Police statistics were not available at this meeting. The Clerk confirmed that PCSO Anne Chalmers, who was due to be at the meeting, was unable to attend because of shift changes. She is hoping to attend the next Parish Council meeting on the 22nd June 2009.

7578 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes.

Despite the Parish Council's objections, it was noted that planning application F/2008/2778 has been approved by WBC.

The Parish Council had no adverse comments relating to applications LB/2009/0568, F/2009/0565 and F/2009/0736. Objections were to be made regarding O/2009/0698, CLE/2009/0687 and F/2009/0724.

Councillor Larkin presented to the meeting the procedure to be adopted for dealing efficiently with planning applications.

Some discussion was held around the Sandford Farm Appeal and the closing date for comments. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had been approached by a group requesting financial assistance.

RESOLVED: objections to be made in respect of O/2009/0698, CLE/2009/0687 and F/2009/0724;
the procedure for dealing with planning applications was agreed;
the Clerk to ascertain the closing date for comments in respect of the Sandford Farm Appeal; and
financial assistance cannot be granted to the Sandford Farm Action Group.

7579 **Provision for Young People in the Parish**

Councillor J. Martin confirmed that a cycle path is required to get from the village to the skate park in Reading and the issue of a suitable route is yet to be agreed.

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

7580 **School Road Play Area Works**

The Chairman updated the meeting on the current position and on going frustrations with School Road:

- The Chairman and Councillor Drake wish to meet with WBC's Chief Executive Officer to outline the Parish Council's frustrations and dissatisfaction with the process over the last two years.
- The Chairman and Clerk met Regency Landscaping at School Road on the 23rd April 2009 to discuss landscaping arrangements. However, due to seasons and watering problems, it is now unlikely that planting will go ahead as planned and further delay will arise.
- The requirement by WBC for both SNHPC and Regency Landscaping to have £10m of public liability insurance cover.
- Some discussion was held around the fencing and adjoining gates between some properties and the playing field. Further discussion was held around the ownership of the properties at the back of the playing field and whether they are privately or Council owned.

RESOLVED:

The Chairman and Councillor Drake to arrange to meet with WBC's Chief Executive Officer;

The Clerk to make appropriate public liability insurance arrangements;

The Clerk to contact property owners regarding the planned new fencing and the implications for gate holders; and

The Clerk to ascertain ownership of the properties at the back of the playing field and request financial contribution from WBC for the back fence.

7581 **Traffic Initiatives**

Councillor P. Martin has met recently with WBC regarding the raw traffic data. Some discussion was held around this and the hope that a lollipop person could be recruited for the village.

Councillor Larkin also informed the group that a resident of Hinton Road had written to the local Member of Parliament regarding traffic issues.

RESOLVED: A lollipop person to be recruited for the village and a suitable location identified.

7582 **Finance**

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

Accounts - May 2009

		£	£
Previous Balance			30,289.23
Ref	Expenditure - Payee		
2.1	R & J Services		1,035.00
2.2	Thames Water		10.90
2.3	Gavin Verdin		445.00
2.4	M. Bradshaw		
	<i>Salary May 09</i>	403.54	
	<i>Office</i>	60.00	
	<i>Mileage</i>	4.70	468.24
2.5	Berkshire County Blind Society		50.00
2.6	Kevin Guy		348.68
2.7	Hurst Village Halls		25.88
	Total Expenditure		2,383.70
	Income		
	Parish Precept (40%)		8,400.00
	VAT refund for 2008/09		3,408.44
	Allotment rents for 2009/10		250.00
	Total Income		12,058.44
	Revised balance c/f		39,963.97

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Internal Auditors would be undertaking the 2008/09 audit of accounts on the 18th May 2009.

Correspondence

7583 Handyman

Some discussions were held around the handyman, Kevin Guy from Greenfingers, and his duties. It remains unclear as to whether Mr. Guy has applied for a street licence. The Parish Council agreed to fund a pair of leather gauntlets to enable safe emptying of the litter bins.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council to reimburse Mr. Guy for a pair of leather gauntlets. The Clerk to ascertain the position regarding Mr Guy's application for a street licence.

7584 Wish Lists 2009/10

Some discussion was held around the Parish Council's wish list for 2009/10.

RESOLVED: the following issues remain on the Parish Council's wish list:

- Traffic calming at School Road/Hinton Road/A321;
- Orchard Road resurfacing;
- Sawpit Lane kerbing.

The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....