

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE SMALL VILLAGE HALL, SCHOOL ROAD, HURST
ON MONDAY 5th October 2009 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

Councillor Annette Drake Mr Nick Christo (part)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Curry and J. Martin

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk)

7623 Vacancies on the Council

It was noted that two vacancies remain on the Parish Council. The Chairman welcomed two potential candidates who had joined the meeting to observe proceedings.

7624 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7th September 2009 were agreed as an accurate record.

7625 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

7626 Public Forum

Councillor Drake mentioned two complaints she had received regarding Martineau Lane – namely an incident relating to a gate which has now been attended to and a damaged bollard.

Playbuilder

7627 The Chairman welcomed Mr Christo, Area Manager (North), to the meeting. Mr Christo provided members with a brief update on progress so far. Of the 40 expressions of interest received, both School Road and Dinton Pastures Country Park were included in the 22 successful bids. Some discussion was held around what monies can be spent on and the type of equipment required.

Mr Christo has met with both Councillors Curry and Drake and plans can shortly be signed off once agreed by the Parish Council.

Members felt that in the interests of neighbour relations, all adjoining properties should be consulted with regarding the installation of new playground equipment.

RESOLVED: Mr Christo to provide a list of completed Reading Borough Council sites to enable members to see the type of equipment successfully installed by other authorities.

7628 Police Matters

PCSO Anne Chalmers had sent apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. However, she had reported that incidents in Hurst had been minor in the past month. The Police are doing everything then can regarding the ad hoc on going disturbances by youths in School Road playground.

7629 Planning Applications

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. Councillors had no adverse comments with regards to applications F/2009/1821 and F/2009/1047. However, objections were to be lodged regarding application F/2009/1741.

Councillor Larkin updated the meeting on the Oak Cottage appeal. The Parish Council's response is now largely complete and was agreed by members.

RESOLVED: the clerk to express the Parish Council's views to WBC on the outstanding planning applications; and

The Clerk to arrange for appeal documentation relating to Oak Cottage to be couriered to Bristol by the deadline of the 19th October 2009.

7630 Provision for Young People in the Parish

In the absence of Councillor Jan Martin, no update was available at this meeting.

7631 School Road Play Area Works

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

- The Chairman stated a response had now been received from Mr Moon, Wokingham Borough Council, regarding the legal and administration costs associated with WBC drawing up the planting licence. Members remain unhappy with the process and the time which has been wasted.

- Some discussion was held regarding the condition of the fence around the gas governor. It was agreed that it was unsuitable and in poor condition and should be removed.
- Some discussion was held around the fencing and the quotes which the Chairman had already received. Following a letter from an adjoining resident it was agreed that an additional quote will be sought to accommodate suitable height fencing adjoining this particular residence.
- The Chairman briefed members regarding the current situation with the village pond. Clearing is now largely complete and the feedback from residents has been very positive. Some discussions were held around the further clearing of the pond – i.e. the silt excavation from the pond base.

RESOLVED:

The Chairman and Councillor Mrs Drake to escalate the Parish Council's complaint to Level 2 with Wokingham Borough Council;

The Chairman to seek a further quote for the fencing;

The Clerk and Chairman to liaise with the planting contractor re the low level fence and planting works; and

The existing pond contractors to be instructed to remove an initial ten loads – this to be increased to twenty if considered necessary.

7632 Traffic Initiatives

The Chairman gave a brief update on the traffic initiatives covering both the positing of the VAS nearer the village and the gated entrances to the parish. It is likely that the VAS will be moved nearer to Orchard Road. Discussions with Wokingham Borough Council indicate that the gated entrances will be the subject of a policy document which is to be drawn up in the near future.

7633 Finance

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

	£	£
Previous Balance		35,297.82

The following accounts are presented for approval this month:

Ref	Expenditure - Payee			
7.1	M Bradshaw	Salary Oct 09	404.73	
		Office	60.00	
		Mileage	11.74	
		Postage	<u>18.00</u>	494.47
7.2	Mazars (external audit fee)			327.75
7.3	Hurst Village Halls			<u>33.68</u>
		Total Expenditure		855.90
	Income	Precept (50%)	(10,500.00)	
		HMRC tax refund	<u>(140.54)</u>	
		Total Income		<u>(10,640.54)</u>
		Revised balance c/f		45,082.46

7634 Correspondence

More Powers for Parish and Town Councils

The Clerk confirmed that a response had now been received from the office of the Rt Hon Theresa May MP.

Requests for Financial Assistance

Requests have been received from:

- Readibus
- Keep Mobile
- Sue Ryder Care

RESOLVED: £450 and £700 to be granted to Readibus and Keep Mobile respectively. Further information to be requested from Sue Ryder Care before any donation is considered.

Sustainable Community Strategy 2012-2020

Town and Parish Councils have been formally invited to participate in the consultation to refresh the Sustainable Community Strategy. The Parish Council must take responsibility for ensuring that documentation produced by WBC is considered and a formal response provided by 18/11/09. There will be opportunity for full discussion at the annual town and parish conference on 22/10/09.

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....