

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST
ON TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2024 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Curry (in the Chair),
Boyd, Eastaugh, Kendall, Openshaw, Robinson.

Borough Councillor Andrea.

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Seven Members of the Public.

9498 Public Forum

The Chair welcomed seven parishoners to the public forum and noted that no questions had been submitted ahead of the meeting. Questions had been submitted by a Parishioner, after the deadline, and the Chair confirmed these would be carried forward to the January 2025 meeting of the Parish Council.

9499 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Ewart and Smith and Borough Councillor Andrea.

9500 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

9501 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th November 2024 were approved.

9502 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

9489 **Vacancies on the Parish Council**

Two vacancies remain on the Parish Council. Interest had been expressed by a parishoner to fill the Village Ward vacancy but the person had not turned up to the meeting as agreed.

9503 **Steve Hills, Treasurer, Hurst Cricket Club**

Mr Hills had requested to speak at this meeting but did not appear.

9504 **Borough Councillor Update**

Borough Councillor Alder updated the meeting and was pleased to acknowledge the recent refusals in respect of applications at Land at Lodge Road and Land North West of Hogmoor Lane – both sites being concluded as unsustainable locations.

The Chair noted that the updates provided regularly by Councillor Conway, via Facebook, are of help.

Councillor Alder left the meeting at 7.40pm.

9505 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. It was agreed that Members had no adverse comments with regards to applications 242764, 242814, 242786 and 242305. They objected to application 242063.

An appeal, to be determined by written representations, was noted in respect of Rose Cottage Stables (APP/X0360/W/24/3355104).

RESOLVED: the Clerk to communicate the Parish Council's planning comments to WBC.

9506 Finance

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

Dec-24											
						Main Fund	CIL*	Neighbourhood Planning	Lodge Rd Appeal	Total	
Previous Balance						£	70418.72	211432.74	-5027.62	1634.14	278457.98
The following accounts are presented for approval this month:											
Ref	Expenditure - Payee										
9.1	M Bradshaw (reimbursement for McAfee)					116.99					
9.2	M Bradshaw (reimbursement for lighting/electrics)					537.49					
9.3	Bibby (dog waste)					193.32					
9.4	5G (telephone)					44.52					
9.5	St Nicholas CE Primary (hall hire)					25.00					
9.6	SSE (School Rd)					106.79					
9.7	SLCC (annual sub)					240.00					
9.8	SCS (hedgerow cutting)					528.00					
9.9	SCS (memorial oak)					159.60					
9.10	Treetop Landscapes (xmas tree)					354.00					
9.11	Tony O'Shea (reimbursement for Santa outfit)					54.95					
9.12	M Bradshaw	Salary Nov				1732.08					
		(Income Tax)				-134.80					
		(National Insurance)				-54.73					
		(Pension)				-69.28					
		Office				40.00	1513.27				
9.13	NEST (Employee pension £69.28 + Employer pension £51.96)						121.24				
9.14	HMRC (Employee's Income Tax £134.8 + Employee's NI £54.73 +Employer's NI £134.42)						323.95				
	Total Expenditure						4319.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	4319.12
	Income										
	Dunt Lane rent						80.00				80.00
	Total Income						80.00				80.00
	Revised balance c/f						66179.60	211432.74	-5027.62	1634.14	274218.86

Draft Budget 2025/26

The draft budget for 2025/26 had been previously circulated to Members for their consideration. For the benefit of new councillors, the Clerk explained how the annual budget and resulting precept is calculated. She invited Members to consider the draft recommendations over the Christmas break with the budget and precept to be agreed at the January 2025 meeting of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: all payments were approved.

9507 Neighbourhood Planning

The Chair confirmed that the working group continues to work through the V10 document which is a constantly changing working document. She explained, for this reason, it was not a document for the public domain. A timeline document is being produced and nearing completion. She acknowledged that there was still significant work to be undertaken in the New Year and that will be when the group reaches out to the village asking for specific forms of help.

Mrs Lou Robinson, who was in the public forum and a member of the working group, noted that there was a lot of work going on and many aspects which needed consideration, namely the implications of the revised NPPF.

Councillor Boyd inquired about the status of the analysis of the questionnaires sent to every household. He recalled that they were analysed by consultants Bell Cornwell, and that there was ambiguity with regards to certain local colloquialisms such as the field in School Road being referred to by a variety of names such as Willowmead, the horse field and the Hurst Show site. Consequently, he queried how solid the foundations were and he found it hard to understand why a proper analysis could not be undertaken.

The Chair confirmed that this was not a route she'd wish to revisit. Councillor Robinson noted that any analysis does not have to be made public until it goes to the Inspector and the group is not in that position yet. The Chair reiterated that the group is largely reliant on the ongoing efforts of one member. Working papers must remain confidential as some information is sensitive.

Councillor Boyd indicated that he was trying to be constructive and not critical of the group. He quoted the Government and Locality Guidelines and stated that he did not want the work of the group to be in vain due to not complying with these guidelines. He wanted to participate but did not feel able to do so under the present circumstances and he believed that the plan process needed a relaunch.

The Chair expressed her frustration that, in the years since the group was launched, many people had come forward and then this had slowly dwindled to the few left. A parishoner noted that he was aware of people who wanted to join the group but had been refused. This statement was refuted by the Chair of the Parish Council and Working Group clearly stating that she was not aware of any persons who had applied to join the group being refused.

Councillor Boyd concluded that he wanted to remain constructive but still had issues regarding the groups transparency, despite them having delegated powers from the Parish Council.

9508 **Community Hub Update**

Councillor Robinson updated the meeting and noted that the Parish Council is still waiting on the Great Crested Newt report. He agreed to chase for this.

9509 **Correspondence**

St Nicholas Night

The Chair thanked all those involved in the organisation of St Nicholas Night, which had been a great success. Feedback was that the children had particularly enjoyed the appearance of Father Christmas and the music of the Waltham St Lawrence Silver Band. She passed on her specific thanks to John, Harrison and Fraser Bradshaw for their work with the new lighting and technical logistics on the evening.

Parish Noticeboards

Councillor Openshaw noted that the notice boards in Hurst are always up to date and well-presented and thanked the Clerk.

9497 **Information Reports**

There were no information reports to bring to this meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.17 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....