

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST  
ON TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Curry (in the Chair),  
Boyd, Ewart, Kendall (in part), Openshaw, Robinson  
and Smith.

Borough Councillor Conway (in part).

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Five Members of the Public.

### **9468 Public Forum**

The Chair welcomed five parishoners to the public forum and noted that no questions had been submitted ahead of the meeting.

### **9469 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Eastaugh and Borough Councillors Alder and Andrea.

### **9470 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Ewart declared an interest in respect of the appeal and linked appeals relating to Poppies Farm (APP/X0360/W/24/3342189).

### **9471 Minutes**

The minutes of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July, respectively, were approved.

### **9472 Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **9473 Vacancies on the Parish Council**

The Clerk reported that Duncan Kendall had approached the Parish Council with a view to representing the Village Ward.

RESOLVED: Duncan Kendall duly co-opted, unanimously, to represent the Village Ward.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Kendall and he joined the meeting. Noted that two vacancies remain.

#### 9474 **Borough Councillor Update**

In his absence, Borough Councillor Alder had produced a written report updating Members on key issues. Members had no specific questions to raise in response.

The Chair welcomed Borough Councillor Conway to the meeting at 8pm. She thanked him for his informative social media updates and invited him to update Members with regards to the LPU.

Councillor Conway explained that the Borough Council had now published the LPU: Proposed Submission Plan (Regulation 19) for comments. Representations are invited from the 30/9/24 to 13/11/24. Implications for Hurst are minimal and any representations should be based upon legal compliance and soundness of the LPU. He thanked Borough Councillor Wayne Smith for his significant input into the process.

He explained the backdrop against which this stage had been reached. Namely, significant changes to the planning system at a national level, land availability, rising prices and the ability of the construction industry to deliver. However, WBC wants to take advantage of transitional arrangements. Once Regulation 19 has gone through, the Borough Council can submit the plan to the Planning Inspectorate. Once approved, the Borough will have full protection.

Councillor Robinson noted the difficulties associated with developers being granted planning permission but not then building. Councillor Conway agreed that this was a difficult situation which was out of the Council's control.

Councillor Boyd queried if the removal of the affordability multiplier was cast in stone. Councillor Conway confirmed that the Borough Council is contesting the algorithm which is used.

With over 2700 homes in the Housing Revenue Account, the issue of "affordable" housing was discussed. Councillor Conway explained the definition of affordable which is not necessarily what people would associate with the expression.

Councillor asked if there was anything the Parish Council could be doing to assist going forward. He noted that having a neighbourhood plan in place would help WBC develop its objectives. Councillor Conway noted that it is always a good idea to have a neighbourhood plan where sites can, but don't have to be, identified. It also provides the opportunity for Hurst to explain why it should remain a limited development location. He further reminded Members that, with a neighbourhood plan in place, CIL contributions received by the Parish Council would rise from 15% to 25%.

The Chair thanked Councillor Conway for his update and he left the meeting at 8.40pm.

#### 9475 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. It was agreed that Members had no adverse comments with regards to applications 241315, 241475, 241720, 240770, 241738, 241870, 242103 and 242200. They had no comment pertaining to application 241738. They objected to applications 241486, 240846, 241617, 242067 and 242063. A bat survey is awaited in respect of application 241779.

Councillor Boyd presented a short paper pertaining to the new government consulting on changes to the National Planning and Policy Framework. He asked Councillors how Parish Council could prepare for what is coming and invited thoughts.

Appeals in respect of Land at School Road/Orchard Road (APP/X0360/W/24/3342812), Poppies Farm (APP/X0360/W/24/3342189) and Stokes Farm (APP/X0360/W/23/3330791) were briefly discussed. The Chair thanked Councillors Boyd and Robinson for their work on the appeal in respect of Land at School Road/Orchard Road. She reported that she believed the Parish Council had done well in representing their case and noted that the Inspector had visited the site both before and after the appeal.

It was noted that the appeal in respect of Stokes Farm had been dismissed by the Inspector. No decision has yet been published relating to Poppies Farm.

#### **RESOLVED:**

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



Councillor Boyd asked why the group remained so small and stated that he still struggled with transparency and inclusion. The Chair replied that the initial interest in Neighbourhood Planning had diminished over the years with only four people remaining. Despite reaching out on numerous occasions, no one has approached saying they would like to help. Councillor Boyd felt the group had become very closed which the Chair disagreed with. She said the group welcomes approaches from anyone who has skills to offer.

Councillor Boyd asked if the plan needed re-launching. Councillor Robinson asked Councillor Boyd if he would be willing to join the group. Councillor Boyd agreed to attend the forthcoming meeting of the group and then form a judgement as to whether he would be comfortable to come on board.

#### **9478 Playpark Updates**

The Clerk confirmed that the new swings and goal posts had been fitted in School Road playpark. The area was due to be power washed shortly. A quote had been sought from Fencing Products to supply and fit 54m of new fencing, with concrete posts and gravel boards, on the right hand length of School Road playpark. The quote in the value of £5860 +VAT was accepted. Councillor Smith asked if this work had been budgeted for. The Clerk reported that previous year underspends on playpark repairs would cover the cost with any shortfall coming from reserves.

The Clerk confirmed that the replacement fence and gates at Davis Street Playpark were due to be done on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

RESOLVED: Fencing Products be commissioned to replace fencing costing £5860 +VAT.

#### **9479 Community Hub Update**

Councillor Robinson updated the meeting and confirmed that planning permission had been applied for that week. An outcome is awaited.

#### **9480 Approval of Policies**

RESOLVED: policy in respect of Unauthorised Encampment Process approved.

#### **9481 Frequency of forthcoming meetings**

RESOLVED: the Parish Council to meet monthly from November 2024.

9482 **Correspondence**

St Nicholas Night

RESOLVED: St Nicholas Night was confirmed for the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024. Usual arrangements would be made to bring the evening together.

The Hurst Word

The Clerk confirmed that she had been working hard to bring together content for the Autumn edition of The Hurst Word. A draft copy would be circulated for comment shortly.

John Edward's memorial tree

The Clerk advised that an English Oak tree had been sourced by the Parish Council's grounds maintenance contractor. The Clerk to arrange a plaque.

RESOLVED: Councillor Robinson to agree the wording to appear on the plaque with Mr Edward's family.

Northern Parishes Group

Councillor Boyd confirmed that he would be attending the Northern Parishes Group on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Request to use Container

Councillor Robinson asked if there was spare capacity in the container to store some wire frames on behalf of the Hurst Horticultural Society. The Clerk said she saw no problem and would happily meet there to arrange.

9483 **Information Reports**

There were no information reports to bring to this meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....