

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST
ON TUESDAY 11TH MARCH 2025 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

Borough Councillor Andrea.

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Three Members of the Public.

9512 Public Forum

The Chair welcomed the public and confirmed that no questions had been presented for the public forum. She would, therefore, not be taking any.

9513 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Ewart and Smith.

9514 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made by Parish Councillors. Borough Councillor Andrea would leave the room when planning matters were to be discussed as he sits on Wokingham Borough Council's (WBC) Planning Committee.

9515 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4th February 2025 were approved.

9516 Matters arising

The following matters were noted:

- A bus shelter at the village halls has previously been raised and dismissed. The Clerk reiterated that no budget has been committed for such a project; and
- The future hosting of weddings at Dinton Pastures will add to the already problematic parking issues in the Davis Street area.

9517 Vacancies on the Parish Council

One vacancy remains for the Village Ward. The Clerk will readvertise via notice boards, website and social media.

9518 Borough Councillor Update

The Chair welcomed Borough Councillor Andrea to the meeting. He reported the following:

Regarding the Local Plan, the Council remains in a transitional period and little weight can be put on the plan until it is approved. Borough Councillor Andrea believed this would be early 2026.

Financial challenges continue at the Borough with the budget being approved on the 20th February 2025.

Parking on Broad Hinton continues to be a problem with drivers parking for Twyford station. Both WBC and the Police have limited powers as, currently, drivers are not parking illegally.

Parking around the Davis Street area of Dinton Pastures remains a problem. Parking cones are being utilised but Borough Councillor Andrea will be engaging with WBC Highways to explore any other options.

A new skatepark has now opened in Twyford.

Borough Councillor Andrea confirmed that he had held discussions with Councillor Ewart regarding the on going flooding problems in both Islandstone Lane and Nelson Lane.

Issues are being experienced Borough wide with some black wheelie bins, utilised for general household waste. The manufacturer has been contacted regarding cracking bins. Borough Councillor Andrea urged parishioners not to overfill bins. WBC are now charging for replacement bins.

The Chair thanked Councillor Andrea for his update.

Borough Councillor Andrea left the room to allow Planning matters to be discussed.

9519 Planning Applications

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. It was agreed that Members had no adverse comments with regards to applications 250109, 243180 and 250461. They supported application 242430.

The Clerk confirmed that there were no appeals to report.

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

Borough Councillor Andrea returned to the room.

9520 Finance

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

Mar-25									
				Main Fund	CIL*	Neighbourhood Planning	Lodge Rd Appeal	Total	
Previous Balance				£	53372.87	211089.42	-5027.62	1442.29	260876.96
The following accounts are presented for approval this month:									
Ref	Expenditure - Payee								
12.1	M Bradshaw	(Expenses)		43.98					
12.2	Lyreco	(Stationery)		43.50					
12.3	SCS	(Grounds maintenance)		824.25					
12.4	St Nicholas CE Primary School	(Hall hire)		25.00					
12.5	itQED	(Microsoft licence)		5.22					
12.6	Bibby	(Dog waste)		167.54					
12.7	Thames Water	(School Road)		284.54					
12.8	5G	(Phone)		39.97					
12.9	5G	(Phone)		41.17					
12.10	SCS	(Grounds maintenance)		824.25					
12.11	P Curry	(Expenses)		2.10					
12.12	The Link	(Grant)		450.00					
12.13	Hurst Bowling Club	(Grant)		440.00					
12.14	Wokingham & District CAB	(Grant)		250.00					
12.15	ABC Reading	(Grant)		500.00					
12.16	Wokingham Job Support	(Grant)		260.00					
12.17	St Nicholas CE Primary	(Donation)			920.00				
12.18	Keep Mobile	(Grant)		600.00					
12.19	itQED	(monthly support)		44.06					
12.20	M Bradshaw	Salary	1732.08						
		(Income Tax)	-135.00						
		(National Insurance)	-54.73						
		(Pension)	-69.28						
		Office	40.00	1513.07					
12.21	NEST	(Employee pension £69.28 + Employer pension £51.96)		121.24					
12.22	HMRC	(Employee's Income Tax £135.00 + Employee's NI £54.73 + Employer's NI £134.42)		324.15					
Total Expenditure				6804.04	920.00	0.00	0.00	7724.04	
Income									
	Miscellaneous income			0.14					
	Dunt Lane rent			80.00					
Total Income				80.14				80.14	
Revised balance c/f				46648.97	210169.42	-5027.62	1442.29	253233.06	

Grant awards for 2024/25

RESOLVED: grants for 2024/25 were awarded to:

- The Link: £450
- Hurst Bowling Club: £440
- Wokingham & District CAB: £250
- ABC Reading: £500
- Wokingham Job Support: £260
- Keep Mobile: £600

Additionally, £920 was donated from CIL monies to support four children at St Nicholas CE Primary School.

9521 Neighbourhood Planning

The Chair reported that she had discussed the matter of the neighbourhood plan with both Councillor Boyd and Borough Councillor Conway the previous week. Whilst, the concept of neighbourhood planning held some value 10 years ago, it was felt that it has lesser value now. Twyford Parish Council's recent case was a good example of a major planning permission being approved, despite the existence of a neighbourhood plan. Given its limited value and the lack of available resources, it was felt that the plan should be held in abeyance with activity suspended for the foreseeable future. Members agreed that this was the appropriate action.

RESOLVED: the neighbourhood plan to be held in abeyance with activity suspended for the foreseeable. The Clerk to inform WBC.

9522 Community Hub Update

The Clerk confirmed that deadlines for comments on the application, 242430, was the 5th March 2025 and a decision is now awaited from WBC Planning.

9523 Approval of Policies

RESOLVED: the Planning Code of Conduct was agreed and signed by the Chair.

9524 Gov.uk domain

The Clerk reported that it is recommended best practice for government organisations to have a gov.uk domain name. To this end, she had made enquiries with itQED seeking their assistance. Our IT provider believe this can be achieved and are currently researching.

RESOLVED: the preferred name would be in the format of Clerk@hurstparishcouncil.gov.uk

9525 Correspondence

80th Celebrations of VE Day

The Clerk reported that the nation is preparing for the 80th anniversary of VE Day on the 8th May 2025. She believed that the lighting of the Beacon would be appropriate. Councillor Robinson agreed to manage this project with the New Hurst Village Society (NHVS).

RESOLVED: the Clerk to contact Haines Hill Estate requesting their help in lighting the beacon. Councillor Robinson to liaise with NHVS.

5th Anniversary of Covid pandemic

The Clerk asked if the Parish Council wished to remember the 5th anniversary of the Covid pandemic in any way. Members agreed that this was an event they did not wish to mark.

Allotments

The Chair reported that the allotments are nearly full with only one quarter plot currently unfilled. She expressed her thanks to allotment holder, Paul Martin, who had done a great job of planting trees in the allotments.

Northern Parishes Group

Councillor Boyd had attended the recent meeting of the Northern Parishes Group. He updated Members and was pleased to report that a member of Thames Valley Police had attended the meeting which was very useful. Minutes will follow for Members.

Parish Council Mission Statement

Councillor Boyd reported that he would try and put together a high level document for the Parish Council outlining its values, objectives and a framework for planning/infrastructure etc. This will be a short and simple document and will be brought to the April 2025 meeting of the Parish Council for agreement.

9526 **Information Reports**

The Clerk advised that Model Financial Regulations had been updated again. The regulations were updated because of The Procurement Act 2023 and The Procurement Regulation 2024, which came into force the previous week. She would revise the Parish Council's regulations and send an updated copy to Members ahead of them being agreed at the April 2025 meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....