

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST
ON TUESDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Curry (in the Chair),
Boyd, Eastaugh, Ewart, Smith.

Borough Councillor Alder (in part).

OFFICERS: Mrs Maria Bradshaw, (Clerk).

PUBLIC: One Member of the Public.

PART I

9621 Public Forum

The Chair welcomed the public.

There were no questions in the public forum.

9622 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Kendall, Openshaw, Percival, Robinson and Thomas.

9623 Declarations of Interest

There were none to declare.

9624 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th October 2025 were approved.

9625 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

9626 **Borough Councillor Update**

The Chair welcomed Borough Councillor Alder.

Planning

Borough Councillor Alder noted the recent success regarding appeals in Hurst. He confirmed that with regards to the Local Plan it will be several months before the next stage.

He informed Members that he had undertaken a visit with developers this past week regarding the Loddon Valley Garden Village development. The aim of this development is that it will be a place where people want to live. Officers are putting pressure on the developers to set a high standard going forward.

Borough Council Funding

The Borough budget will be set this week and Borough Councillor Alder confirmed that the settlement is not looking generous.

Twyford Station

The ongoing parking problems were discussed at Twyford station. Councillor Boyd queried what the long term strategy was and queried where commuters should park. Borough Councillor Alder confirmed that the Borough is not in a financial position to fund any infrastructure and this needs to be addressed by the rail operator.

Borough Councillor Alder left the meeting at 7.50pm.

9627 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. They had no adverse comments pertaining to applications 252363 and 252526.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to communicate comments to WBC.

9628 Finance

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

Nov-25										
						Main Fund	CIL*	Neighbourhood Planning	Lodge Rd Appeal	Total
Previous Balance					£	82901.77	217161.66	-5027.62	1442.29	296478.10
The following accounts are presented for approval this month:										
Ref	Expenditure - Payee									
8.1	P Palmer (fencing at Martineau Green)					600.00				
8.2	Castle Water (allotments)					10.73				
8.3	Z Percival (reimbursement for on line course)					16.00				
8.4	D Boyd (reimbursement for Land Registry searches)					69.90				
8.5	Reimbursement for on line course	P Curry				16.00				
8.6		D Kendall				16.00				
8.7		J Openshaw				16.00				
8.8		P Eastaugh				16.00				
8.9		T Robinson				16.00				
8.10	RBL Poppy Appeal (2 no. wreaths)					52.00				
8.11	SCS (grounds maintenance)					905.02				
8.12	Bibby (dog waste removal)					251.32				
8.13	M Bradshaw	Salary (August)			1886.09					
		(Income Tax)			-152.60					
		(National Insurance)			-67.05					
		(Pension)			-75.44					
		Office			40.00	1631.00				
8.14	NEST (Employee pension £75.44 + Employer pension £56.58)					132.02				
8.15	HMRC (Employee's Income Tax £152.60 + Employee's NI £67.05 + Employer's NI £220.36)					440.01				
	Total Expenditure					4188.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4188.00
	Income									
	Dunt Lane rent					80.00				
	Total Income					80.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.00
	Revised balance c/f					78793.77	217161.66	-5027.62	1442.29	292370.10

RESOLVED: all payments were approved.

9629 Community Hub Update

Councillor Robinson was unfortunately absent from the meeting. Councillor Boyd informed Members that he had spoken at length with a parishioner who was involved with the original groundworks for the existing Scout Hut. He had given suggestions as to how the Architect could be further informed.

Councillor Boyd suggested that a small working group should be formed to manage the process. He offered to assist Councillor Robinson with the good progress which had already been made and suggested that Councillor Smith could be of significant help with his financial background. Glyn Crocombe would be invited to join the working group as he has been working very closely with Councillor Robinson to get the project to this stage.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to contact Glyn Crocombe with a view to a small working group being formed.

9630 Frying Pan Pond

Councillor Boyd confirmed he had drafted letters to the current owners of frying pan pond outlining the Parish Council's offer.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to send the letters that week.

9631 **Assets previously owned by the Hurst Village Society**

The Clerk reported that the three village maps and village gates were currently not owned by any one since the dissolution of Hurst Village Society. She had contacted the New Hurst Village Society but they had confirmed that the assets had not been transferred to them. The Clerk recommended that the most appropriate solution would be for the Parish Council to adopt the assets so ensuring they didn't fall into disrepair.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to seek legal advice on the adoption of the assets.

9632 **St Nicholas Night**

The Chair confirmed that all final arrangements were now in place for the evening. Councillor Ewart felt strongly that, as long standing donors, Chocoholics should be supported and the goodie bags should be purchased from them (similar product as last year).

RESOLVED: the Clerk to speak with Chocoholics and ascertain cost of 200 goodie bags as previous year.

9633 **Correspondence**

Youth offering

The Clerk confirmed that she had attended a meeting the previous week along side fellow Wokingham Clerks and Officers from WBC Youth Services. Clerks are keen to consider youth provision across the Borough with Parish and Town Councils recognising the need for varying provision. The headline was that qualified youth workers are in short supply.

The Clerk had reported that the only provision in Hurst is the church youth club which the Parish Council supports financially each year with a grant.

She will report back to the Parish Council when further information is provided. In the meantime, the Chair suggested inviting along a representative from the Church youth club to outline to Members their work and the difference the Parish Council's grant makes.

Pond in Islandstone Lane

The Clerk reported she had been contacted by a parishioner regarding the pond at Islandstone/Nelsons Lane. The complaint was regarding the works which had been undertaken creating mounds of soil and dams. New fencing has also been erected. The Clerk to follow this up with WBC.

9634 Information Reports

There were none to report.

The meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.

By virtue of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the Clerk and public were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business:

Clerk's pension arrangements.

Signed.....

Date.....