

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST
ON TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Curry (in the Chair),
Boyd, Broadbent (in part), Eastaugh, Ewart, and
Robinson.

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Six Members of the Public.

PART I

9751 Public Forum

There were no questions to be raised in the public forum.

9752 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Kendall, Percival and Smith.

9753 Declarations of Interest

There were none to declare.

9754 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th July 2026 were approved.

9755 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

9756 Vacancies on the Parish Council

The Clerk confirmed that Jamie Broadbent wished to join the Parish Council and be co-opted to fill the current vacancy representing the Ashridge ward. This leaves one remaining vacancy covering the Village ward.

RESOLVED: Jamie Broadbent co-opted to the position of Councillor for the Ashridge Ward.

Councillor Jamie Broadbent joined the table.

9757 Borough Councillor Update

The Clerk confirmed that there were no updates from the Borough Councillors as they all had previous meeting commitments that evening.

9758 Planning Applications

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. It was agreed that Members had no adverse comments with regards to applications 253113, 261621, 261488, 261765, 261863 and 261953. They objected to applications 261624, 261808, 261841 and 261842. Application 261956 was still under review and the Clerk would be advised of agreed comments.

The appeal in respect of Land at Lodge Road, Hurst, Wokingham, RG10 0SG - Full application for the proposed erection of 3 no. detached dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping and creation of a balancing pond (Application: 252934 Appeal: 6014086) is to be determined by written representations. Comments are due to the Planning Inspectorate by the 16th September 2026. Councillor Boyd to circulate comments for agreement.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to communicate the Parish Council's planning comments to WBC; and
the Clerk to submit comments, in respect of APP/6014086, to the Planning Inspectorate by the deadline of the 16th September 2026.

9759 Finance

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

Sep-26									
						Main Fund	CIL	Community Hub	Total
Previous Balance					£	66378.66	220154.98	-8993.32	277540.32
The following accounts are presented for approval this month:									
Ref	Expenditure - Payee								
6.1	Tactical Facilities Management (dog waste bins June)					251.32			
6.2	Tactical Facilities Management (dog waste bins July)					251.32			
6.3	Castle Water (allotments)					68.32			
6.4	BT (phone)					40.03			
6.5	itQED (remote support)					76.46			
6.6	SCS (grounds maintenance July)					945.75			
6.7	Yu Energy (School Rd July)					3.33			
6.8	Silk Safety Ltd (project services CDM)							420.00	
6.9	Castle Water (allotments)					97.54			
6.10	PKF Littlejohn (external audit)					378.00			
6.11	WEL Medical (defib pads for phone box)					79.20			
6.12	BT (phone)					40.03			
6.13	M Bradshaw (postcrete for bin installation)					30.00			
6.14	Thames Water (School Rd)					91.30			
6.15	Glasdon (bin)					517.10			
6.16	SCS (grounds maintenance August)					945.75			
6.17	Tactical Facilities Management (dog waste bins August)					251.32			
6.18	Defib4life (defib pads for Forest Rd)					75.54			
6.19	Yu Energy (School Rd August)					7.96			
6.20	Anne Owen Architects (preliminary sketches & building regs application)							1680.00	
6.21	M Bradshaw								
	Salary (July)				1974.55				
	(Income Tax)				-162.40				
	(National Insurance)				-74.12				
	(Pension)				-114.52				
	Office				40.00	1663.51			
6.22	LGPS (Employee pension £114.52 + Employer pension £477.84)					592.36			
6.23	HMRC (Employee's Income Tax £162.40 + Employee's NI £74.12 + Employer's NI £233.63)					470.15			
6.24	M Bradshaw								
	Salary (August)				2039.72				
	Arrears				260.68				
	(Income Tax)				-223.80				
	(National Insurance)				-100.19				
	(Pension)				-133.42				
	Office				40.00	1882.99			
6.25	LGPS (Employee pension £133.42 + Employer pension £556.70)					690.12			
6.26	HMRC (Employee's Income Tax £223.80 + Employee's NI £100.19 + Employer's NI £282.51)					606.50			
	Total Expenditure					10055.90	0.00	2100.00	12155.90
	Income								
	Cashback					0.28			
	Dunt Lane rent					160.00			
	Total Income					160.28	0.00	0.00	160.28
	Revised balance c/f					56483.04	220154.98	-11093.32	265544.70

RESOLVED: all payments were approved.

9760 Community Hub Update

The Chair welcomed Glyn Crocombe, Chair of the Martineau Trust, to the meeting. Mr Crocombe updated Members on project progress to date.

Mr Crocombe explained that three quotes had currently been received to enable demolition of the existing hut. Two were for demolition and disposal, one quote was for demolition and re-use of the hut.

Discussions were had regarding the specification for the proposed new build, including its energy efficiency, and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Architect to obtain the up to date specification. The current foundations under the hut were discussed and whether they would provide a suitable base for a new hut to be put on top of.

Councillor Boyd noted that the building cost had increase significantly and asked Members whether the Parish Council should be committing to additional expenditure. He had additional concerns that a number of decisions had been made without consultation with the Parish Council who is the client.

Discussion pursued regarding the use of CIL and Councillor Robinson stated that if the CIL is not used, Wokingham Borough Council had every right to take the monies back. Councillor Boyd asked if the Martineau Trust would be providing any financial support and Mr Crocombe confirmed that the Trust would be financing the kitchen and fencing outside. Councillor Boyd noted that, proportionally speaking, this was minor compared to the Parish Council's financial commitment. Councillor Broadbent informed that costs could be adjusted depending upon the type of specification worked with i.e. different approaches could be taken to flooring, bases and energy solutions, for example, to keep costs lower.

The Clerk explained that it was imperative that the project is managed in accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. As the Responsible Financial Officer for the Parish Council she had to be aware of every decision and financial commitment. For the benefit of all, she explained to the meeting the difference between quotes and a sealed tender bid process which is required. Councillor Boyd reiterated that the Parish Council is the client and therefore must have a tight handle on the project.

The Chair invited questions. A member of the public forum asked whether a schedule had yet been prepared. They also expressed concerns that it appeared from the drawings that there was no insulation. These points were rebuked by Mr Crocombe.

One member of the public left the meeting.

9761 **Correspondence**

Christmas Fayre 2026

The Chair reported to Members that she felt that, after nearly 20 years, it was time to introduce a new choir to the Christmas evening celebrations to be held on the 5th December 2026. The choir she had sourced would replace the Silver Band. She suggested that any donations which were collected on the night would be given towards the funding of the new library at St Nicholas CE Primary School. The Headteacher would be asked to switch on the tree lights.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to the proposals for the Christmas Celebration night.

Pond tidy up

The Chair thanked Councillors Eastaugh and Robinson for their assistance in clearing weeds and debris from the village pond the previous weekend. She extended her thanks to parishoner Chris James whose time and equipment was given to help. The debris now needs a grab lorry to dispose of it and Mr James agreed to source three quotes for the Clerk.

RESOLVED: Mr James to source quotes for a grab lorry and present to the Clerk for approval.

Speedwatch

The Clerk reported that she had been asked by one of the Speedwatch volunteers if equipment, including a radar gun, could be purchased by the Parish Council. Currently, Twyford Parish Council is loaning theirs. Members agreed that the £520 cost had not been budgeted for this year and, as the Council already owns a static speed monitoring device, it was not supported at present. They did, however, support the purchase of 10 no. Speedwatch signs to be mounted around the Parish. Cost £100.

Councillors Curry and Ewart agreed to undertake some Speedwatch volunteering.

RESOLVED: 10 no. Speedwatch signs to be procured at a cost of £100; and
Councillors Curry and Ewart to undertake some Speedwatch volunteering.

9762 **Information Reports**

There were none to report.

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

Commercial aspects relating to the community hub.

All members of the public left the meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.47 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....