

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST
ON TUESDAY 1ST JULY 2025 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

OFFICERS: Mrs Maria Bradshaw, (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Two Members of the Public.

9584 Public Forum

The Chair welcomed the public.

She also welcomed James Iles from ProVision and Ben Hubbard from Raft Technologies who were presenting application 251385.

PC Julie Bogdanova and PCSO Ruby Maguire were also welcomed.

There were no questions in the public forum.

The Chair invited the Police Officers to give an update. PC Bogdanova was pleased to report that Hurst is quiet and provides them with few issues. Speeding and parking (particularly on Twyford Road for the Station) are problematic at present. There has been evidence on this road of parking dangerously near junctions and she reported that Borough Councillor Wayne Smith had written to the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding this.

With regards to speeding the Police would like to carry out more checks but further training is required in the use of equipment. The equipment is available but tight budgets are restricting officer training.

Members had no specific questions and thanked both officers for their attendance.

9585 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Openshaw and Borough Councillors Alder, Andrea and Conway.

9586 **Declarations of Interest**

There were none to declare.

9587 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd June 2025 were approved.

9588 **Matters arising**

The following matters were noted:

the Clerk confirmed that she had contacted the Area Manager from the Warren Inn Public House who was receptive to helping with the noticeboard placement at the pub; and

two pairs of fisherman's waders for use in the pond have now been procured.

9589 **Borough Councillor Update**

The Chair confirmed that there was no update to give this evening.

9590 **Planning Applications**

Current applications

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. They had no adverse comments pertaining to applications 250605 and 251304.

Community Hub application, 242430

Councillor Robinson updated Members with regards to progress with the community hub application. He confirmed that, following the recent tree survey, roots across the area are proving to be a significant problem. As a result of discussions with the Chair of the Martineau Trust he confirmed that agreement had been reached to replace the existing Scout hut with a like for like building, so allowing the existing pad to be utilised. He anticipated that this approach would mean a less expensive build. The Scouts would be accommodated in the large Village Hall whilst any build took place. Members agreed that this seemed a very sensible way forward.

Presentation in respect of application 251385

The Chair invited Mr Iles and Mr Hubbard to explain their application, 251385. She reminded them that Members would be making no judgement or passing comments.

Mr Hubbard explained that the application was for the siting of 2 no. masts at land on Phoenix Park, Nelsons Lane, Hurst. Their unique business proposition is to provide the fastest means of transcontinental communications to the London Stock Exchange, situated in the data centres in Slough. He explained how the two essential components of electronic communication, both require very specific needs to function. Shortwave radio requires low interference and microwave requires a direct line of site between two points.

The masts will be of lattice construction and for a temporary period of 10 years, after which, all materials are recyclable.

Sites are difficult to come by and they believe the site identified is ideal. Their application is supported by significant technical assessments which they encouraged Members to read in detail on the planning portal. In finding a site they have avoided protected landscape areas. Letters have been hand delivered to neighbours.

Councillor Robinson asked if there would be any lights on top of the two masts. There will be none.

Councillor Boyd asked if there were receiving dishes. There will be two small dishes.

Councillor Ewart noted that she lives in Islandstone Lane and had not received the letter relating to this application. Mr Iles apologised for this.

Councillor Eastaugh asked if approached by cellular providers, could other facilities be put on the masts. Mr Hubbard confirmed that, albeit possible, it would dramatically interfere with their communications.

A parishioner asked how the site would be secure. Mr Hubbard confirmed that the site would be gated with anti-climb deterrent on the masts. Hedging would be all around.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to communicate the Parish Council's planning comments to WBC; and
Members agreed that the community hub should progress on the basis of a like for like replacement.

Current Appeals

RESOLVED: Councillor Kendall to provide an update, via Facebook, to encourage people to attend the hearing (in respect of Land NW of Hogmoor Lane) and the inquiry (in respect of Land between Lodge Road and Tape Lane).

9591 Finance

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

Jul-25										
						Main Fund	CIL*	Neighbourhood Planning	Lodge Rd Appeal	Total
Previous Balance					£	72830.92	217569.66	-5027.62	1442.29	286815.25
The following accounts are presented for approval this month:										
Ref	Expenditure - Payee									
4.1	Zurich (insurance)					1253.64				
4.2	M Bradshaw (reimbursement for 2 no. fisherman's waders)					84.98				
4.3	itQED (IT remote support)					129.60				
4.4	SCS (grounds maintenance)					905.02				
4.5	5G (phone)					41.87				
4.6	Castle Water (allotments)					10.91				
4.7	itQED (IT remote support)					64.80				
4.8	SSE (Phone box)					265.58				
4.9	SSE (School Rd)					266.37				
4.10	Tactical FM (dog waste disposal)					251.32				
4.11	Printed Today (gazebo)					379.99				
4.12	NSALG (annual sub)					129.50				
4.13	M Bradshaw	Salary			1827.59					
		(Income Tax)			-105.20					
		(National Insurance)			-62.37					
		(Pension)			-73.10					
		Office			40.00	1626.92				
4.14	NEST (Employee pension £73.10 + Employer pension £54.83)					127.93				
4.15	HMRC (Employee's Income Tax £105.20 + Employee's NI £62.37 +Employer's NI £211.59)					379.16				
	Total Expenditure					5917.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	5917.59
	Income									
	Allotment rent					17.50				
	Dunt Lane rent					80.00				
	Total Income					97.50	0.00			97.50
	Revised balance c/f					67010.83	217569.66	-5027.62	1442.29	280995.16

RESOLVED: all payments were approved.

9592 Parish Council Mission Statement

RESOLVED: outstanding for Councillor Boyd to produce, after the outcome of the two current appeals in respect of Land NW of Hogmoor Lane and Land between Lodge Road and Tape Lane.

9593 St Nicholas Night

The Chair informed Members that the idea had been muted of inviting more local businesses to take part in St. Nicholas Night. The evening takes a lot of organisation and the Clerk would contact the usual people.

9594 **Correspondence**

Hurst Show

The Chair thanked Councillor Percival for organising the Parish Council stand at the Hurst Show the previous weekend. Councillor Percival had produced a summary of all the issues which visitors had raised – some of which the Parish Council could help with and others over which they had no control.

Consultations

The Clerk reminded Members of two live consultations:

Budget Engagement Survey for Town and Parish Councils; and

Needs based review of transport network.

9595 **Information Reports**

There were none to report.

The meeting ended at 8.14 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....