

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST
ON TUESDAY 12TH MAY 2026 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

Borough Councillor Conway (in part).

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: One Member of the Public.

9705 Public Forum

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

9706 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Boyd, Ewart and Openshaw.

9707 Election of Chair

Councillor Ian Smith temporarily took the Chair and invited nominations for a new Chair. Councillor Robinson nominated Councillor Curry. No other nominations were received. Seconded, Councillor Kendall. Agreed unanimously.

Councillor Curry accepted and took the Chair.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Curry is elected Chair for the current Municipal Year.

9708 To receive a declaration of office from the Chair

Councillor Curry signed her declaration of office of Chair and this was witnessed and signed by the Clerk.

9709 Election of Vice-Chair

Councillor Boyd had previously informed the Clerk that he would be willing to stand as Vice Chair. Councillor Robinson proposed Councillor Boyd as Vice Chair.

No other nominations were received. This was seconded by Councillor Percival. Agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Boyd is elected as Vice-Chair for the current Municipal Year.

9710 To receive a declaration of office from the Vice Chair

The Clerk confirmed she would ask Councillor Boyd to sign his declaration of office of Vice Chair.

9711 Declarations of Interest

There were none to declare.

9712 Appointments of Representatives on Committees and Outside Bodies

RESOLVED: that Members be appointed to represent the Council as indicated:

Allotments – Councillors Curry.

Playing fields and open spaces – Councillor Ewart.

Village Halls – Councillor Robinson.

Northern Parishes Group – Councillor Boyd.

Community Hub project - Councillor Robinson.

New Hurst Village Society (NHVS) – Councillor Robinson.

IT/Social Media Support – Councillor Kendall.

9713 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th April 2026 were approved.

9714 Matters arising

The following matters were noted:

- The Clerk had submitted to Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) the Parish Council's response to the consultation "Putting people first on our streets";
- Councillors Eastaugh and Percival confirmed they had met to consider the risks parishioners could be faced with in the eventuality of a civic emergency. Their collective thoughts would be sent to the Clerk so advice could be given as to how this would be incorporated into the Parish Council's wider assessment of risks;
- Replacement glass has been fitted in the noticeboard in Davis Street;

- An insurance claim has been made in respect of the vandalised noticeboard at Hurst Village Halls – the excess was £100;
- Fund raising has commenced for the Church Hill footpath; and
- Councillor Eastaugh confirmed that the recent water sample from the Village Pond came back with a very good result.

9715 Vacancies on the Parish Council

A vacancy remains covering Ashridge Ward. The Clerk to continue to advertise.

9716 Borough Councillor Update

The Chair welcomed Borough Councillor Conway to the meeting.

Borough Councillor Conway reported that most of his time had been focused on the recent Local Elections and he was delighted to report that Borough Councillor Andrea had successfully secured his seat with an unprecedented number of votes.

The Local Plan continues to progress well with Borough Councillor Conway confident that the plan provides housing for the Borough whilst protecting precious areas. Hall Farm remains the major development site for the Borough.

Application 253074, Land Adjacent to School Road, continues to be the subject of further revised submissions.

Appeal Ref: APP/X0360/C/24/3346384, Land at Old Billingbear Brickworks, Carters Hill, Binfield – Borough Councillor Conway was pleased to report that the Inspector had concluded that the appeal should not succeed.

Borough Councillor Conway left the meeting at 8pm.

9717 Planning Applications

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. It was agreed that Members had no adverse comments with regards to application 260951. They had a number of concerns relating to application 260789 and the Clerk would communicate these to the Planning Officer.

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

Councillor Percival queried whether sponsorship of the playpark could be secured. No immediate ideas were presented.

9720 Community Hub Update

Councillor Robinson confirmed that the project was now at the stage of drawings having been drawn up to meet Building Control requirements. These were to be imminently submitted. The Hurst Air Scouts have completed a major tidy up of the existing hut and local parishoner Chris James has agreed to provide nearby, temporary storage for a period of 3-4 months for their equipment. The cost of rental would be £150 per month to be shared 50/50 with the Hurst Village Halls.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to pay Chris James a rental fee of £150 per month (split 50/50 with Hurst Village Halls) for a period of up to 4 months.

9721 Correspondence

Hurst Show

Councillor Percival confirmed that she had not yet met with the officer from WBC regarding information for the Parish Council's stand at the Hurst Show.

9722 Information Reports

There were none to report.

The meeting ended at 8.26 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....