

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST
ON TUESDAY 7TH JULY 2026 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

Borough Councillor Conway (in part).

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Five Members of the Public.

9739 Public Forum

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

9740 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Smith.

9741 Declarations of Interest

There were none to declare.

9742 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd June 2026 were approved.

9743 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

9744 Vacancies on the Parish Council

The Clerk reported that Councillor Openshaw had resigned from the Parish Council leaving a vacancy covering the Village Ward. Additionally, the vacancy covering the Ashridge Ward remains unfilled.

The Chair welcomed a parishoner from Ashridge Ward, who had expressed an interest in filling the vacancy. The Chair encouraged him to observe proceedings and ask any questions of the Clerk or Councillors.

9745 **Borough Councillor Update**

The Chair welcomed Borough Councillors Andrea and Conway to the meeting.

Local Plan Update (LPU)

Councillor Conway reported that the examination hearings in respect of the LPU had now been completed and Inspectors had praised Officers for their work. Adoption of the plan will only come after revised modifications and this is hoped to be the Autumn.

Councillor Conway confirmed that the call for sites is now live in respect of the next Local Plan. However, he noted that the Borough Council does not have the capacity to resource a further plan until the current one is completed. Councillor Robinson noted that many sites will inevitably be resubmitted.

Councillor Boyd noted that both developers and interested parties now only get one chance to get their representations correct. The “drip feed” of additional comments will no longer be permitted and applications must be “appeal ready”.

Speedwatch

Borough Councillor Andrea reported that a Speedwatch team had been set up to cover various roads in Hurst and that he continued to seek further volunteers. Councillor Percival volunteered to join the team.

Borough Councillors Andrea and Conway left the meeting at 7.58pm.

9746 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. It was agreed that Members had no adverse comments with regards to applications 261251 and 261399. They objected to application 261216.

The appeal in respect of Land North of Broadwater Lane and West of Hogmoor Lane, Hurst (Application: 260353, Appeal: APP/6011047) was discussed and the Clerk noted that it will be decided by written representations required to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the 15th July 2026. Councillor Robinson 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/6011047, to the Planning Inspectorate by the deadline of the 15th July 2026.

9747 Finance

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

Jul-26									

RESOLVED: all payments were approved.

9748 Community Hub Update

Councillor Robinson provided an up to date position on progress with the community hub. The Architect has now discussed plans with Building Control and the Health and Safety Consultant is putting together her requirements for the demolition of the existing hut, which will then enable the existing foundations to be further examined. Main Contractors can now start to be sourced for both the main build and internals.

The Clerk reiterated that the project needs to be managed within the requirements of the Parish Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for which she is responsible as the Council's Responsible Financial Officer. All expenditure and resulting payments will need to be approved by the Parish Council. Councillor Boyd agreed that approval and reporting structures will need to be implemented, to meet the requirement for Parish Council accountability, plus transparency for parishioners.

9749 Correspondence

Arts4Wokingham

The Clerk reported that she had met the previous day with a representative from Arts4Wokingham who are trying to work with both the Borough and Town/Parish Councils. As a local charity, the organisation manage public art projects, often encouraging developers to include public art within their developments. Councillors felt this was not something that would be immediately required in Hurst as current CIL monies are earmarked for the community hub project.

Christmas Tree for 2026

The Clerk asked Members if they were happy to use the same supplier for the Village Christmas tree as used the last few years. Members were happy to proceed but requested the tree be taller and bushier than last years, which was disappointing.

Dog Bin in Orchard Road

The Chair reported that a request had been made for an additional dog waste bin in Orchard Road. The Clerk noted that this had not been budgeted for and the capital cost and ongoing waste removal costs would need to be considered in the next budget round in January 2027.

Feedback from Hurst Show

Councillor Percival reported that the Hurst Show had been well attended. A number of visitors had expressed interest in joining the Parish Council but no one had come forward at the moment. With regards to resilience planning, some families had indicated they were well prepared with others having made no provision. There was a lot of interest in the community hub plans. The Chair thanked her for her time and inputs.

Village Pond

Councillor Eastaugh reported that he had met with Dinton Pasture's Countryside Officer Operations to discuss maintenance of the village pond. The Officer reported that the pond was in good condition. However, weeds need clearing from the edge of the pond. Parishioner, Chris James, indicated that he would be very happy to transport and dispose of any weeds. The Chair gave her thanks to Mr James for this kind offer. Councillor Eastaugh to arrange.

It was noted that some bricks were missing from the pontoon and the Clerk agreed to contact the Parish Council's Handyman to assess the damage.

9750 **Information Reports**

There were none to report.

The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....