

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST
ON TUESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2025 AT 7.30 p.m.

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

Borough Councillors Andrea and Conway (in part).

OFFICERS: Mrs Maria Bradshaw, (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Two Members of the Public.

9608 Public Forum

The Chair welcomed the public.

There were no questions in the public forum.

9609 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Kendall and Thomas.

9610 Declarations of Interest

There were none to declare.

9611 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd September 2025 were approved.

9612 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

9613 **Borough Councillor Update**

Finance/budget update

The Chair welcomed Borough Councillors Andrea and Conway.

Recent appeals

Borough Councillor Conway thanked Members, officers and parishioners who had presented and attended at the appeal in respect of Land between Lodge Road and Tape Lane. He was pleased that the Inspector had dismissed the appeal and was surprised at the speed of the Inspector's decision.

Borough Council Funding

Councillor Conway updated Members on the Council's on going funding campaign. Whilst recognising the Government's commitment to redistribution, the Borough Council continues to fight hard asking the Government to moderate their approach, so reflecting true needs. He reiterated that service delivery cannot be sustained and he will be meeting with Central Government Ministers, along with Wokingham Borough Council's (WBC) Chief Financial Officer, next week.

Borough Councillors Andrea, Conway and one member of the public, left the meeting at 7.45pm.

9614 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. They had no adverse comments pertaining to application 252132. They objected to both application 251973 and 251385.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to communicate comments to WBC.

9615 Finance

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

[illegible]

RESOLVED: all payments were approved.

9616 Community Hub Update

Councillor Robinson confirmed that planning permission had been granted for the community hub. The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from the Chair of the Martineau Trust and he confirmed that he is now seeking to draw up a specification and seek quotes to comply with building regulations. Permission was sought for a local Architect, based in Twyford, to be commissioned to undertake this work. Expenditure was likely to be 3-4 hours at £120 per hour. Members approved this.

Discussions were held around the lease arrangements regarding the building going forward and it was suggested that the best approach would be a full repairing and insuring (FRI) lease. This is a common commercial lease where the tenant is responsible for all repairs, maintenance, and insurance costs for the

property, including the structure and exterior. This will be revisited at the appropriate time.

RESOLVED: Architect to be commissioned to undertake 3-4 hours work at a rate of £120 per hour.

9617 Frying Pan Pond

Councillor Boyd had researched the current situation and ownership with regards to Frying Pan Pond and presented his findings to members. Members concluded that an offer should be made but this would be in a small value (no greater than £10k) and not open for negotiation.

RESOLVED: Councillor Boyd to draft a letter to the current owners.

9618 St Nicholas Night

The Clerk confirmed that, despite inviting a number of companies, only Stanlake Estate was available to attend. Most arrangements are now in place. Outstanding is:

- The Clerk to contact ex-Parish Councillor Lyon to ask for his assistance in erecting the tree;
- Councillors Openshaw and Eastaugh to source Father Christmas and Elf outfits; and
- Quotation for children's chocolate to be sourced by Clerk.

9619 Correspondence

Remembering Henry Farrar

The Clerk was sad to note the recent passing of Henry Farrar, local historian who lived at High Chimneys for many years and was the author of the Book of Hurst.

IT Training

The Clerk confirmed that she had participated in a training course, run by BALC, to explain the requirements of Assertion 10 in respect of the Council's duties and IT. She was drawing up an IT Policy to be approved at November's meeting of the Parish Council. She requested that all Councillors undertake the e-course being provided by BALC entitled "Data Protection Essentials".

RESOLVED: all Councillors to complete “Data Protection Essentials” e-course within the next two weeks.

Dog bin on Martineau Green

It was noted that the dog bin on Martineau Green is often overflowing and an additional bin will be procured.

RESOLVED: Dog bin, as existing, to be procured for Martineau Green.

Twyford Commuter Traffic

It was noted that the commuter traffic being generated around the roads in Twyford remains considerable. It is understood that various options are being considered.

Request from St Nicholas Hurst CE Primary School

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from St Nicholas CE Primary School asking for support, from CIL monies, to help fund exterior fencing. The Clerk confirmed that she had replied to the school outlining that the current CIL pot is earmarked for the community hub.

9620 **Information Reports**

There were none to report.

The meeting ended at 8.51 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....