

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST
ON TUESDAY 14TH APRIL 2026 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Curry (in the Chair),
Boyd, Eastaugh, Kendall, Openshaw, Percival and
Smith.

OFFICERS: Mrs Maria Bradshaw, (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Two Members of the Public.

PART I

9687 Public Forum

The Chair welcomed the public and confirmed there were no questions in the public forum.

9688 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Ewart and Robinson.

9689 Declarations of Interest

There were none to declare.

9690 Vacancies on the Parish Council

The Chair confirmed that the vacancy covering Ashridge Ward remains. The Clerk had spoken to a potential parishoner of the ward who may be interested in the role.

9691 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd March 2026 were approved.

9692 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

9693 **Borough Councillor Update**

The Chair welcomed Borough Councillor Conway to the meeting. His key updates were:

Local Plan Update

Next hearings commence on the 27th April 2026 and will focus largely on modifications. Councillor Conway believes that officers are well prepared with their evidence base and equipped to answer potential questions from the Inspectors.

Planning

253074, Land Adjacent to School Road – a further consultation has launched regarding reserved matters. Councillor Conway urged people to not reply on their previous comments and submit further comments if they have them.

260353, Land North of Broadwater Lane and West of Hogmoor Lane – this application has been refused on three grounds.

RESOLVED: Councillor Boyd to draft proposed response to reserved matters 253074 and circulate to all.

Borough Councillor Conway left the meeting at 7.50pm.

9694 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. They had no adverse comments pertaining to applications 260435, 260394, 260596, 260288 and 260437.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to communicate comments to WBC.

9697 **Putting People First on our Streets - Town and Parish Engagement**

The Clerk reported that, in response to the live WBC consultation “Putting people first on our streets”, she had received feedback from only the Directors of Bonhomie Court who highlighted Broadcommon Road as a specific issue.

She asked Councillors to individually send their comments to the Clerk to enable them to be collated and returned to WBC.

RESOLVED: Councillors to provide the Clerk with their comments for collation and submission to WBC.

9698 **Emergency Planning/Community Resilience Seminar**

Councillor Eastaugh updated Members on the recent course he had attended regarding emergency planning and community resilience. He explained that Parish Council’s have responsibilities with regards to civic emergency, working along side colleagues from other agencies. Assisting Parishoners in becoming resilient to a host of emergency situations was also covered. Parish Council’s need to be aware of risks that their communities are particularly at risk of e.g. flooding.

He had acquired various pieces of useful literature from the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum. Councillor Percival believed that this could be useful literature for the Parish Council’s stall at the Hurst Show. She was also working with officers at WBC to try and acquire literature and examples of emergency packs for the show.

The Clerk confirmed that, in the case of a local emergency, she would be the first point of contact and reach out to the appropriate agencies.

9699 **Correspondence**

Telephone and broadband upgrade

The Clerk reported that the Hurst Parish Council business telephone line and broadband system was to be upgraded. With the change from traditional copper cable to fibre, the change was essential and not something which could be avoided. The Clerk had negotiated a 60 month contract with the provider, 5G.

Councillor Percival queried if a mobile phone would be useful. The Clerk confirmed that a landline to the office is more appropriate.

Notice board at Davis Street

The Clerk confirmed that replacement glass for the noticeboard at Davis Street had been procured and she would arrange for it to be fitted.

Notice board at Hurst Village Halls

The noticeboard at the Village Halls has been vandalised within the last week, with notices being ripped down and physical damage done to the board.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to contact the insurers regarding making a claim.

Water sample from Village Pond

Councillor Eastaugh confirmed that he has now received the pack to complete a water sample check on the village pond. This is part of a national campaign testing the quality of water.

Councillor Openshaw asked the Clerk if she could liaise with colleagues at Dinton Pastures regarding pond maintenance so enabling any seasonal tasks to be proactively undertaken.

Church Hill footpath

Councillor Boyd reported that he had spoken with the Friends of St Nicholas Church regarding the proposed footpath project. WBC has confirmed that planning permission will not be required. Work is now actively underway liaising with landowners. One option would be to purchase the land at a nominal value from the landowners – this is currently being considered.

External fundraising is due to actively commence with a build start of Spring 2027 hoped for.

9700 **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:

Clerk's annual review.

The Clerk and public left the meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.36 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....