ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST
ON TUESDAY 3RD MARCH 2026 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT:	Councillors Boyd (in the Chair), Eastaugh, Kendall, Openshaw, Percival and Smith.
OFFICERS:	Mrs Maria Bradshaw, (Clerk).
PUBLIC:	Thirteen Members of the Public.

9673 **Public Forum**

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

9674 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Curry, Ewart and Robinson.

9675 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Eastaugh declared an interest in respect of application 260231.

9676 **Vacancies on the Parish Council**

The Vice Chair confirmed that the vacancy covering Ashridge Ward remains.

9677 **Minutes**

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

9678 **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

9679 **Borough Councillor Update**

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

Borough Council Budget

Borough Councillor Conway was pleased to report that a balanced budget had been set the previous week. The Vice Chair was pleased to note that capital expenditure was not being cut.

Progress of the Local Plan Examination

The Local Plan has now passed the first stage of examination by the Inspectors. Stage 2 examination hearings commence later this month. The Vice Chair asked how long it would be before a new plan starts to be worked upon. This is anticipated to be a minimum of three years.

A question was asked regarding unoccupied housing. Borough Councillor Conway confirmed that this is a big national problem with housing providers reluctant to bid and invest in new properties.

Planning applications

Borough Councillor Conway updated on the following applications as below:

253074 – Land adjacent to School Road and Orchard Road - the applicants have failed to comply with what's required and survey work remains outstanding. He believes that to complete this requirement is not a quick job and will go beyond a year. There is a strong likelihood that the applicants will withdraw the current application and then resubmit.

260353 – Land North of Broadwater Lane and West of Hogmoor Lane – this application has moved the proposed site to the East now affecting additional properties in Hogmoor Lane. Whilst the new application does address one of the concerns relating to veteran trees, it does not address all concerns. If the Planning Officer is minded to approve the application, Borough Councillor Conway has listed it to go to the Planning Committee.

Borough Councillor Conway left the meeting at 8.03pm.

9680 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. They had no adverse comments pertaining to applications 260049, 260231, 252547 and 260014. The Vice Chair briefed the public, who were largely in attendance regarding application 260353. He confirmed that the Parish Council would be lodging an objection and final comments were being collated.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to communicate comments to WBC.

9681 **Community Hub Update**

The Clerk confirmed that there was no update to give. The Chair of the Martineau Trust is chasing the Architect.

9682 **Allotment Rent Increase**

The Clerk confirmed that allotment rents had not risen since 2023. This year the allotments expenditure exceeded income by a nominal amount. Recommended increases from the 1st April 2026 were made as below:

- 2.5 pole allotment to be increased from £17.50 to £20
- 5 pole allotment to be increased from £35 to £40
- 10 pole allotment to be increased from £70 to £80

RESOLVED: rents to be increased from 1st April 2026 as above.

9683 **Finance**

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

Mar-26									
						Main Fund	**CIL***	**Neighbourhood Planning**	**Lodge Rd Appeal**	**Total**
Previous Balance					£	79457.56	217161.66	-5027.62	1442.29	293033.89
The following accounts are presented for approval this month:										
Ref	**Expenditure - Payee**									
12.1	Lyreco (stationery)					36.30				
12.2	SCS (grounds maintenance)					905.02				
12.3	St Nicholas CE Primary School (hall hire)					25.00				
12.4	5G (phone)					51.86				
12.5	SSE (School Rd)					126.40				
12.6	Castle Water (allotments)					91.18				
12.7	Redlynch Leisure (Davis Street equipment)					18420.00				
12.8	HMRC Shipley (underpaid Employer's NI)					414.00				
12.9	HMRC Shipley (underpaid Employer's NI)					4154.00				
12.10	SSE (Phone box)					113.36				
12.11	St Nicholas CE Primary School (hall hire February)					25.00				
12.12	itQED (remote support January)					11.66				
12.13	Bibby (dog waste removal)					251.32				
12.14	SCS (grounds maintenance)					905.02				
12.15	Yu Energy (School Rd)					4.12				
12.16	Grants 2025/26:	St Nicholas School				1210.00				
12.17		The Link Visiting Scheme				450.00				
12.18		Keep Mobile				600.00				
12.19		Wokingham Job Support				240.00				
12.20	Thames Valley Handyman (removal of broken play equipment)					80.00				
12.21	Castle Water (allotments)					80.28				
12.22	itQED (domain renewal)					42.00				
12.23	Thames Water (School Rd)					98.42				
12.24	5G (phone)					51.35				
12.25	St Nicholas CE Primary School (hall hire March)					25.00				
12.26	itQED (Microsoft 365 annual licences)					895.68				
12.27	itQED (remote support February)					22.03				
12.28	M Bradshaw (reimbursement for speed sign battery)					52.99				
12.29	Midbrook (Community Hub drawings)						6000			
12.30	M Bradshaw			Salary	1886.09					
				(Income Tax)	-143.20					
				(National Insurance)	-67.05					
				(Pension)	-122.60					
				Office	40.00	1593.24				
12.31	LGPS (Employee pension £122.60 + Employer pension £513.02)					635.62				
12.32	HMRC (Employee's Income Tax £143.20 + Employee's NI £67.05 +Employer's NI £220.36)					430.61				
	Total Expenditure					32041.46	6000.00	0.00	0.00	38041.46
	Income									
	Dunt Lane rent (2 months)					160.00				
	Allotment rent (early payment in part for 2026/27)					953.60				
	Cash back					0.18				
	Total Income					1113.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	1113.78
	Revised balance c/f					48529.88	211161.66	-5027.62	1442.29	256106.21

RESOLVED: all payments were approved; and grants for 2025/26 awarded as below:

- Wokingham Job Support Centre - £240
- The Link Visiting Scheme - £450
- Keep Mobile - £600
- St Nicholas CE Primary School - £1210

9684 **Approval of Policies**

RESOLVED: the IT and Email Policy was approved.

9685 **Correspondence**

Putting People First on our Streets - Town and Parish Engagement

The Clerk confirmed that the consultation period has commenced and will run until the 1st May 2026. Parish and Town Councils, along with residents, are being asked to review road speeds and make suggestions for change.

The Vice Chair urged all residents to complete the survey and advise the Parish Council of their recommendations. The Parish Council will consider their views and collaborate with residents suggestions with the aim of ensuring that no roads fall through the gap.

RESOLVED: to be an agenda item at the April 2026 meeting of the Parish Council. Councillor Kendall to put the consultation link on the Parish Council's Facebook page.

Notice board at Davis Street

The Clerk confirmed that the glass in the noticeboard at Davis Street had been smashed and she was seeking replacement. It was unclear as to what had broken it.

Emergency Planning/Community Resilience Seminar

Councillor Eastaugh confirmed he would be attending a Community Resilience Seminar on the 24th March 2026 run by BALC. He would report back.

9686 **Information Reports**

Clearing of Ditches

Parishoner, Mr. Chris James, reported that he has been asked by WBC to clear some of the ditches in Hurst which he has commenced. Once cleared, WBC plan to jet the pipes to ascertain blockages or breakages.

Parking at Davis Street

Councillor Smith reported that parking at Davis Street/Davis Way has notably increased.

The meeting ended at 8.36 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....……...