

ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

OFFICERS: Mrs Maria Bradshaw, (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Three Members of the Public.

9659 Public Forum

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

9660 Councillor Brian Thomas

The Chair started the meeting sharing the sad news of the recent passing of Councillor Brian Thomas. Brian had been actively involved in the Parish for many years playing a role on both the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group and, more recently, the Parish Council representing Ashridge Ward. The Chair confirmed that his calm manner and knowledge would be very greatly missed.

9661 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Robinson.

9662 Declarations of Interest

There were none to declare.

9663 Vacancies on the Parish Council

The Chair confirmed that a vacancy now exists on the Parish Council, representing Ashridge Ward. Ideally it would be good for this role to be filled by a resident of this ward. The Clerk confirmed that it would be advertised via the usual channels.

9664 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th January 2026 were approved.

9665 **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

9666 **Borough Councillor Update**

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

Progress of the Local Plan Examination

The Local Plan has now passed the first stage of examination by the Inspectors. Stage 2 examination hearings take place between March and June 2026.

Local government three-year finance settlement

Despite the financial challenges faced by the Borough Council, a balanced budget has been produced.

Twyford Station parking

The Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) and Borough Councillors continue to work with GWR to find a solution to the ongoing parking difficulties around the station. There is no easy solution. Yellow lines will go on various parts of the Hurst Road within the next two months.

National Flood Management Programme

WBC has applied for a grant to tackle the flood problem around Stanlake.

Borough Councillor Andrea left the meeting at 7.44pm to enable planning to be discussed.

9667 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. They had no adverse comments pertaining to applications 260024, 260026 and 253069. They objected to applications 253113 and 252934. Application 252547 was still being reviewed.

Data privacy statement;
Data protection policy;
Social media policy;
Protocol for reporting at meetings;
Public participation at meetings;
Staff grievance policy;
Grants policy; and
Publication scheme.

9671 **Correspondence**

Hurst Christmas

The Clerk confirmed that the St. Nicholas Church were very receptive to amalgamating the Christmas Fair with St Nicholas Night to provide "Hurst Christmas". The day will take place on Saturday 5th December 2026 with the usual Christmas fair being held in the village halls in the afternoon, followed by festivities in School Road Playpark in the evening. Local businesses have been invited to attend in the evening and set up stall selling their produce. The village Christmas tree will be lit in the evening.

National Lottery Funding

The Clerk was pleased to report that £14,850 had been received from the National Lottery and this had funded the new climbing frame in Davis Street Playpark. The unit is now safety inspected and open to the public for use. Feedback on social media has been very positive. Councillor Openshaw suggested that the Parish Council promotes Davis Street Playpark as a quieter area for play for those children who find larger playparks overwhelming.

New dashboard for Planning and CIL

The Clerk confirmed that she now has access, along with Borough Councillors, to the new dashboard produced by WBC. The dashboard allows searching of applications, along with s106 and CIL monies and provides a one stop look up facility.

Hurst Show

Councillor Percival had previously circulated a paper suggesting that the focus of the Parish Council stand at the Hurst Show could be Personal and Community Resilience. Members supported this idea and the Clerk agreed to speak with the Emergency Planning team at WBC to see if they could offer and help and literature.

9672 **Information Reports**

There were none to report.

The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....