

## **ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN ST NICHOLAS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HURST  
ON TUESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Curry (in the Chair),  
Boyd, Ewart, Robinson, Smith and Thomas (in part).  
Borough Councillor Andrea.

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

PUBLIC: Nine Members of the Public.

### **9498 Public Forum**

The Chair welcomed the public and confirmed that no questions had been presented for the public forum.

### **9499 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Eastaugh, Kendall and Openshaw.

### **9500 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations made by Parish Councillors. Borough Councillor Andrea would leave the room when planning matters were to be discussed as he sits on Wokingham Borough Council's (WBC) Planning Committee.

### **9501 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were approved.

### **9502 Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **9503 Vacancies on the Parish Council**

The Chair was pleased to announce that parishioner, Brian Thomas, had agreed to represent the Ashridge Ward. With family connections with Ashridge since the 1950's, and previous involvement with community projects, she felt he would be a significant asset to the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: Proposed: Councillor Curry, Seconded Councillor Robinson. Agreed unanimously. Councillor Thomas joined the table.

This leaves one vacancy remaining for the Village Ward.

#### 9504 **Borough Councillor Update**

The Chair welcomed Borough Councillor Andrea to the meeting. He had three major updates to report:

Regarding the Local Plan, the Council remains in a transitional period with the aim to submit by the 12<sup>th</sup> February. Issues with neighbouring Boroughs are being addressed.

Financial challenges continue at the Borough with the impact of national insurance contributions increasing alongside other costs and core revenues decreasing.

Local Government reorganisation was briefly discussed. Councillor Andrea noted that Wokingham is already a unitary council so hopes the impact may not be as great. Councillor Boyd additionally noted the review of Parishes and Councillor numbers which may have an impact across the Borough.

The Chair thanked Councillor Andrea for his update.

Borough Councillor Andrea left the room to allow Planning matters to be discussed.

#### 9505 **Planning Applications**

Members discussed the applications attached to these Minutes. It was agreed that Members had no adverse comments with regards to applications 243149, 250055 and 250090. They objected to application 243193.

The Clerk confirmed that there were no appeals to report.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to communicate the Parish Council's planning comments to WBC.

Borough Councillor Andrea returned to the room.

## 9506 Finance

The following accounts were presented for approval this month:

Feb-25					Main Fund	CIL*	Neighbourhood Planning	Lodge Rd Appeal	Total
Previous Balance					£ 63631.25	211089.42	-5027.62	1442.29	271135.34
The following accounts are presented for approval this month:									
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Expenditure - Payee</b>								
11.1	SSE (School Rd)				95.68				
11.2	SSE (Phone box)				194.77				
11.3	SCS (Grounds maintenance)				824.25				
11.4	St Nicholas CE Primary School (Hall hire)				25.00				
11.5	5G (phone)				40.68				
11.6	Fencing products Ltd (School Rd fence)				7032.00				
11.7	Bibby (Dog waste)				167.54				
11.8	M Bradshaw	Salary			1732.08				
		(Income Tax)			-134.80				
		(National Insurance)			-54.73				
		(Pension)			-69.28				
		Office			40.00	1513.27			
11.9	NEST (Employee pension £69.28 + Employer pension £51.96)					121.24			
11.10	HMRC (Employee's Income Tax £134.80+ Employee's NI £54.73 +Employer's NI £134.42)					323.95			
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>				10338.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	10338.38
	<b>Income</b>								
	Dunt Lane rent				80.00				
	<b>Total Income</b>				80.00				80.00
	<b>Revised balance c/f</b>				53372.87	211089.42	-5027.62	1442.29	260876.96

## 9507 Neighbourhood Planning

The Chair reported that she had met with Vice Chair the previous week to discuss the future of the neighbourhood plan. Their thoughts had been circulated to Members for consideration. Initial thoughts are that there are too many national and local issues at present and options exist – to continue with a new group or forget it. Councillor Robinson's view was that there was no mileage in any continuation as too many issues are up in the air. Councillor Boyd agreed that there were too many moving parts at present.

RESOLVED: neighbourhood planning to be on next months agenda with a view to agreement on its future.

## 9508 Community Hub Update

The Clerk confirmed that, despite chasing WBC, she was yet to receive formal notification of the planning application. She would continue to chase.

## 9509 Approval of Policies

RESOLVED: the following policies were agreed and signed by the Chair:

- Standing Orders;
- Financial Regulations;

- Publication Scheme; and
- Scheme of Delegation.

Members wanted longer to consider the Model Planning Code of Conduct and this would, therefore, be added to the agenda of the March meeting of the Parish Council.

## 9510 Correspondence

### Approach from Warings Bakery

The Clerk reported that she had been approached by Warings Bakery asking if the Parish Council would be receptive to a pop up style bakery working out of the village during the week or at weekends. Councillors agreed that with the demise of the Village Stores it could be welcomed. The Clerk confirmed that if Warings wished to proceed they would have to go through the due licensing process with WBC.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to advise Warings of the steps they would need to go through with WBC Licencing but would confirm that Parish Council's agreement in principle.

### Removal of Christmas Tree

The Chair thanked all those involved with the removal of the Christmas tree.

### Issues arising from Playpark/Village Inspections

Councillor Ewart reported that she notes a number of issues as she undertakes her monthly inspections around the village. She asked if Members would consider once again the possibility of dogs being allowed into the community orchard. Councillor Boyd noted that the orchard is particularly used in the summer and further thought would have to be given to this request.

She furthermore requested if a bus shelter could be considered at the Village Halls. The Chair confirmed that this would be on highways land and with the pending development of the adjacent site she did not think this was viable.

Support for bike lockers and cycle routes – Twyford Parish Council

The Clerk reported that she had been approached by Twyford Parish Council gauging our support for the increasing the bike lockers at Twyford Station and creating greater connectivity between Parishes via increased cycle routes. Members agreed that both would be welcome but there would inevitably be a cost implication which was yet to be presented to them.

RESOLVED: the Clerk to respond to Twyford Parish Council confirming support in principle subject to financials. Councillor Boyd would raise the matter with them at the next meeting of the Northern Parishes.

Traffic issues at Davis Street

Councillor Smith noted that parking around the Daviss Street area is becoming increasingly problematic. Additionally, he noted the recent addition of a vehicle activated sign (VAR) which had appeared at the Dinton Pastures entrance. The Clerk confirmed that she had no knowledge of the VAR and it, therefore, was a WBC installation.

Wokingham Pilot Campaign – Footpath Review

The Clerk confirmed that this had been circulated to Members and that she would respond to WBC indicating agreement with the initial questions being asked. Councillors agreed that they would clearly welcome a footpath review and that connectivity between settlements is welcomed.

Peter Sanderson

The Chair was very sad to note the recent passing of parishioner Maggie Sanderson's husband, Peter. As a long standing supporter of the Parish Council, and ex-Councillor herself, condolences were sent to Maggie and her family. The Clerk would arrange a card.

**9511 Information Reports**

There were no information reports to bring to this meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.

Signed.....  
Date.....