

# OLD HURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Old Hurst Parish Council  
held in Old Hurst Village Hall on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

**Councillors present:** Mr. G. Bull, Mrs. G. Godby, Mr. E. Jones, Mrs. J. Pearce, Mrs. L. Sawyer (Chairman) & Mrs. E. Taylor.

**Also present:** Mrs. D. Benham (Clerk) and 1 parishioner.

1. **Apologies for absence:** County Cllr. S. Criswell (Attending another meeting).

2. **Declarations of interest:** None declared.

3. **Public participation:** A parishioner asked whether daffodils could be planted on the verges in the village. This will be discussed at the September meeting. The Clerk was asked to contact Highways regarding the debris that has been left on the grass verge next to the A141 following works to the adjacent ditch.

4. **Councillor vacancy:** A “Candidate’s Qualification” form and invitation to attend the meeting had been sent to a parishioner interested in the vacancy, but the Clerk had not received a reply.

5. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014:** Unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. **Matters arising from the minutes:**

a) Highways Improvement Scheme 2013 ( path & ramp) – The scheme has been completed although Highways have agreed to tidy up the area surrounding the new ramp and to sow some grass seed. Highways have advised that the final cost of the scheme was £13580.57 - £552.66 lower than originally quoted. £10,000 will be paid from the Highways Improvement Fund, a grant of £2000 has been received from Red Tile Wind Farm Trust, leaving a balance of £1580.57 to be paid from Parish Council funds. Cllr. Bull will arrange for an article to be placed in the village newsletter acknowledging the grant from the Red Tile Wind Farm Trust.

The Clerk had met with Barry Finnemore (Luminus Warden) to discuss the overhanging willow tree and the state of the vehicle access over the footpath, associated with the Luminus property adjacent to the village hall. Mr. Finnemore has agreed to look into this.

Highways Improvement Scheme 2014 (traffic island at the junction of The Lane and St. Ives Road) – The bid for funding has been successful and the Highways engineer will be making a start on the design shortly..

b) Winter gritting routes – the Clerk had written to CCC asking them to reconsider adding Church Street to the regular gritting route and is awaiting a reply.

c) Footpath along the A141 from Old Hurst to Warboys – The Clerk has asked Highways if this can be sided out and is awaiting a reply.

7. **February flooding at Grove Park:** Cllr. Jones reported that the Fire Service had been called to clear a blocked soak- away pipe and pump out the resulting flooding at Grove Park on 7<sup>th</sup> February. It is thought that debris from the adjacent ditch, which was full of water, had entered the pipe causing the blockage. The matter had also been reported to the Environmental Health Officer

at HDC. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council did not own the ditch and that this was therefore a private matter between the two land owners.

**8. Mud and debris on the footpath leading from Church St./Warboys Road to Grove Park:**

Cllr. Jones agreed to speak to the owner of the tractor which had caused the mess.

**9. Report by Cllr. Taylor on the Time-Banking meeting held at Somersham on 5<sup>th</sup> March:**

There are six schemes currently operating in Cambridgeshire – 4 are run by paid employee and 2 by volunteers. The time bank in Somersham is run by a paid employee, Lucy Bird, who is funded by the Parish Council and various grants. Lucy gave a talk on how the time bank in Somersham operates and provided copies of their newsletter and information, as well as offering support, should Old Hurst decide to set up a similar scheme. The Somersham time bank has 96 members including several from Pidley and Colne. Old Hurst could join the Somersham scheme but a financial contribution towards Lucy's wages would be required. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should invite Cllr. Criswell to discuss this at the next meeting and to ask him to provide a proposal on the financial contribution required to cover Lucy's additional hours.

**10. Finance.**

a) Payment of outstanding debts.

Cllr. Bull proposed retrospective approval of payment of items (1) to (3) and approval of payment of items (4) and (5). Seconded by Cllr. Pearce and unanimously agreed.

(1) Cq. No. 000375 - £138.64, K & M Lighting, 2 x quarterly street lighting maintenance charge.

(2) Cq. No. 000376 - £132.28, Mrs. D. Benham, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for January.

(3) Cq. No. 000377 - £111.85, Mrs. D. Benham, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for February.

(4) Cq. No. 000378 - £249.09, Mrs. D. Benham, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for March.

(5) Cq. No. 000379 - £11.40, HMRC, PAYE/NI

b) Current position - A copy of the receipts and payments and bank reconciliation was handed to each councillor. A copy will be attached to the minutes.

c) Internal audit arrangements – Cllr. Bull proposed that the internal audit should be carried out by Brian Cox & Co. Seconded by Cllr. Taylor and unanimously agreed.

d) Payroll – Cllr. Godby proposed that all payroll matters should be dealt with by a SR Howell & Co. from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. Seconded by Cllr. Jones and unanimously agreed. Clerk to confirm that the quote of £100 p.a. obtained a year ago, is still valid.

e) Request for a donation towards an extension to the Woodlands Cancer Centre at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. Councillors agreed that no donation should be made.

**11. Police matters: Crimes in Old Hurst shown on the police website:**

December – 3, January – 1.

A member of Old Hurst's Speedwatch team reported during public participation that several sessions had been carried out since the last meeting, including one whilst the police were in attendance. The latest session was carried out on 18<sup>th</sup> March during which 27 vehicles were travelling in excess of the 30 mph limit.

**12. Correspondence.**

a) Cambridgeshire Future Transports meeting notes – forwarded to councillors by e-mail.

b) Better Care Fund – poster on notice boards.

c) Adult support drop-in sessions – poster on notice board.

- d) Public consultation on proposals to improve older people's healthcare and adult community services began on 17<sup>th</sup> March. Poster on the notice board.
- e) Cluster meeting at the Millennium Sports Pavilion, Somersham. 7pm Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr. Sawyer and Cllr. Pearce to attend.
- f) 2 street lights have been repaired by K & M Lighting.

13. **Reports from councillors.**

Cllr. Jones thanked councillors for agreeing to move the meetings to Wednesdays. Cllr. Jones advised that the car sales business had ceased trading at the Grove Business Park but there was a notice stating that a car valeting business would be starting on 29<sup>th</sup> March. District Cllr. Bull agreed to check whether planning permission was in place.

14. **Date of the next meeting:** Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014. Annual Parish Meeting starting at 7.30pm, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Signed.....

Date.....