

OLD HURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Old Hurst Parish Council
held in Old Hurst Village Hall on Wednesday 21st May 2014.

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

Also present: Mrs. D. Benham (Clerk) and 5 parishioners.

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

2. **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman:** Cllr. Pearce proposed Cllr. Sawyer for Chairman. Seconded by Cllr. Taylor and unanimously agreed. Cllr. Sawyer was duly elected Chairman and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the Clerk. Cllr. Pearce proposed Cllr. Bull for Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Cllr. Taylor and unanimously agreed.

3. **Declarations of interest:** Cllr. Bull declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item 15, being a close neighbour of the application site. Cllr. Sawyer declared a personal interest in item 15, as she knew the applicant.

4. **Public participation:** No issues raised by parishioners present at the time.

5. **Co-option to fill councillor vacancy:** Cllr. Bull proposed that Matthew Fox be co-opted to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Kathleen Simpson. Seconded by Cllr. Pearce and unanimously agreed. Cllr. Fox signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the Clerk, and was handed a Registration of Financial and Other Interests form to complete and return to HDC.

6. **Minutes of the previous meetings held on 19th March and 31st March:** Unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

7. **To review Standing Orders:** Councillors agreed that no amendments were required.

8. **To review Financial Regulations:** Councillors agreed that no amendments were required.

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

a) Highways Improvement Scheme 2013 (path & ramp) – The overhanging willow tree has been cut back but the Clerk is still waiting to hear from the Luminus warden, Barry Finnemore regarding the state of the vehicle access over the footpath associated with the Luminus property adjacent to the village hall.

Highways Improvement Scheme 2014 (traffic island at the junction of The Lane and St. Ives Road) – Michael Anker (Highways engineer) aims to provide a plan of the proposed scheme in time for the next meeting.

b) Winter gritting routes – The request to have Church Street added to the winter gritting routes has been turned down for a second time. CCC have replied saying that there are no official bus stops in Church Street, although it is on a bus route, and that school buses are not included in the

criteria. However, CCC will consider adding Church Street to their secondary gritting routes at the next review. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should reply querying the reasons for the rejection.

c) Footpath along the A141 from Old Hurst to Warboys – Highways are arranging for this to be sided out.

d) Pot holes near to The Grove – Highways do not have the resources to resurface but have agreed to patch and repair.

e) Car valeting business at The Grove – Following receipt of a number of complaints by parishioners, the Clerk had asked Highways to address the number of signs that had been placed on the grass verges. These had subsequently decreased considerably. Cllr. Bull was still looking into whether the relevant planning permission was in place.

f) Time banking – Carried forward to the next meeting.

g) Cambridgeshire Future Transport – Cllr. Sawyer had attended the first meeting on the future of subsidised bus routes. A further meeting will be held on 2nd June 7pm – 9pm at Ramsey Community Centre but nobody from the Parish Council will be available to attend. The Clerk will request a copy of the notes from the meeting and circulate them to councillors.

h) Cluster meeting – Cllr. Sawyer, Cllr. Bull and Cllr. Pearce had attended the Cluster Meeting at Somersham on 24th March. Cllr. Sawyer and Cllr. Bull agreed that it had been useful to meet councillors from other villages and to share ideas. Cllr. Sawyer to attend the next meeting.

i) Speedwatch – the Chairman invited Val Edwards from Speedwatch to address the Council. Mrs Edwards advised that 5 sessions had been carried out since the last meeting. A session held on 22nd April from 5pm to 6pm had detected 51 vehicles exceeding the speed limit on The Lane. The next session will be held on 27th May from 7.45am to 8.45am, with a further session on 29th May from 5pm to 6pm, when a police officer will also be present.

Public participation: The Chairman asked 2 parishioners who had arrived after item 4 (public participation) whether they wished to address the Parish Council.

The owner of the car valeting business at The Grove Business Park informed councillors that he had the relevant planning permission to operate his business and queried why he had been asked by Highways to remove advertising signage on the grass verges. Cllr. Sawyer advised that planning permission had been an issue at The Grove Business Park in the past and that therefore the Parish Council were disposed to checking whenever a new business started up there. The Clerk advised that Highways do not permit advertising signs to be placed on the grass verges and that she had asked Highways to look into this following a number of complaints from parishioners.

10. **Finance.**

a) To approve the accounts for year ending 31st March 2014 and to complete the Annual Return. All councillors had received a copy of the accounts prior to the meeting. Cllr. Taylor proposed that the accounts be approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk and that Section 1 and 2 of the Annual Return, completed by the Clerk, be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. Seconded by Cllr. Jones and unanimously agreed.

b) Result of the internal audit.

Completed by Brain Cox & Co. with no issues raised.

c) Payment of outstanding debts.

Cllr. Taylor proposed retrospective approval of payment of items (1) and (2) and approval of payment of items (3) to (7). Seconded by Cllr. Jones and unanimously agreed.

(1) Cq. No. 000381 - £111.66, Mrs. D. Benham, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for April.

(2) Cq. No. 000382 - £22.40, HMRC, PAYE/NI

(3) Cq. No. 000383 - £60.00, Brian Cox & Co., internal audit fee.

- (4) Cq. No. 000384 - £69.32, K & M Lighting, quarterly street lighting maintenance charge.
- (5) Cq. No. 000385 – £332.17, e-on, annual electricity charges for street lighting.
- (6) Cq. No. 000386 - £18.00, Somersham Parish Council, Time banking session.
- (7) Cq. No. 000387 - £93.33, CAPALC, annual affiliation fee.

d) Current position.

A copy of the receipts and payments was handed to each councillor. A copy will be attached to the minutes.

e) Risk assessment.

Completed by the Clerk on 21st May 2014. A copy will be attached to the minutes and copied to councillors by e-mail.

11. **Police matters:** Crimes in Old Hurst shown on the police website: February – 1, March – Nil.

12. **Correspondence.**

- a) Feedback request for The Parish Conference – passed to Cllr. Sawyer to complete.
- b) CAPALC April e-bulletin forwarded to councillors.
- c) HDC briefing on housing support for older people forwarded to councillors.
- d) Changes to Stagecoach bus services – forwarded to councillors.
- e) Huntingdonshire Local Development Scheme consultation runs from 19/5/14 to 28/11/14 and can be viewed at <http://consult.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/portal/pp/hlp2036/lds2014>
- f) Cambridgeshire Energy Switch – poster for the notice board.

13. **Reports from councillors.**

Clerk to report damage to the footpath on Ramsey Road, between Church Street and The Grove.

Clerk to report deterioration to the Church Street road sign. Cllr. Taylor expressed concern regarding several large trees opposite the end of The Lane, near to Lancaster Close, that are covered in ivy. To be discussed at a future meeting.

14. **Date of the next meetings:** Wednesday 16th July, Wednesday 17th September and Wednesday 19th November. All meetings start at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Cllr. Bull left the meeting having declared an interest in item 15.

15. **Planning:**

Application ref. 1400755FUL. Erection of 2 dwellings with garages following demolition of existing agricultural buildings and formation of new vehicular access. Land at Marsh Farm and Marsh Farm Cottages, St. Ives Road, Old Hurst.

Cllr. Pearce proposed that Old Hurst Parish Council recommend approval of the application.

Seconded by Cllr. Jones and unanimously agreed. Councillors would want to see the dwelling that will face the road brick-faced or white rendered, in keeping with the street scene. Councillors agreed that the village need smaller 3 bedroomed houses.

Signed.....

Date.....