

Minutes of the Meeting of Old Hurst Parish Council  
held by Zoom conferencing on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**Councillors present:** Mr. G. Bull, Mrs. C. Bussetil, Mrs. J. Mackenzie, Mr. I. Martin, Mrs. L. Sawyer & Mrs. E. Taylor.

**Also present:** Mrs. D. Benham (Parish Clerk) and 3 parishioners.

Under the COVID-19 Pandemic (Temporary Regulations in force from 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020 expiring 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021) The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel meetings) (England and Wales) regulations 2020, S78, this meeting was held using Zoom conferencing.

**Public participation:** The recent flooding was discussed by parishioners and councillors. One of the parishioners present, advised that he had arranged to meet with Kathryn Reading from Highways England to discuss flooding issues in the village, on 4<sup>th</sup> February. Members of the Parish Council will also attend.

1. **Apologies for absence:** County Cllr. S. Criswell. Cllr. L. Sawyer left the meeting during “Matters arising” due to internet issues.  
The Clerk advised that Cllr. D. Mallard had tendered his resignation as a Parish Councillor on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021. HDC have been informed and a notice advertising the vacancy has been placed on the noticeboard.
2. **To receive declarations of interest:** None declared.
3. **Minutes of the previous meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020:**  
Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 was proposed by Cllr. Bussetil, seconded by Cllr. Bull and unanimously agreed. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December was proposed by Cllr. Sawyer, seconded by Cllr. Taylor and unanimously approved.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
  - a) Roads and footpaths –  
The Clerk advised that repairs and alterations to the footway in front of 11 & 12 Wellington Close had been carried out by Highways’ contractor and that a number of complaints had subsequently been received. The Highways Supervisor had been asked to look into why the contractors had left the verge in such an unsatisfactory state, and to check that the new ramped section had been constructed within permitted limits. The Highways Supervisor is also continuing to liaise with Chorus Homes regarding a tenant of theirs who continues to park on the verge and on the footway. Complaints have been received regarding cars being parked either partially or wholly on the footway in front of the old village hall site and along The Lane. The Clerk has advised that if the vehicles are obstructing the footway, parishioners must inform the police, as the Parish Council has no powers to deal with this. The Clerk has also asked Highways to clarify ownership of the area between the end of the newly refurbished footway outside 12 Wellington Close and the footway on The Lane, to the right of the old village hall site, as it does not currently join up. Since the last meeting, the Clerk has reported to Highways that the double yellow lines on Church Street have started to crumble away. This will be monitored, with a view to getting them repainted once the weather improves. A small area of footway on Church Street has subsided so that a large puddle forms. This has been reported and should be repaired within the next three months. The overgrown hedge along the A141 towards Warboys has also been reported to Highways.

County Cllr. Criswell had looked into Cllr. Mallard's concerns regarding visibility problems being caused by trees adjacent to the road near to 11 Lancaster Close and Highways have agreed to cut back the suckers in the verge.

b) Speedwatch – Cllr. Martin advised that Speedwatch sessions would resume as and when Covid-19 restrictions allowed.

c) Wheatsheaf Crossroads – Cllr. Criswell's report advised that a design solution was progressing well and that he was actively searching for funding.

## 5. **Finance.**

a) Payment of outstanding debts.

Cllr. Bull proposed retrospective approval of payments (1) to (6). Seconded by Cllr. Bussetil and unanimously agreed.

(1) Cq. No. 000675 - £188.20, askiT Services Ltd., annual charge for councillor mailboxes.

(2) Cq. No. 000676 - £216.55, Mrs. D. Benham, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for November.

(3) Cq. No. 000677 - £0.80, HMRC, PAYE for November.

(4) Cq. No. 000678 - £11.50, Mrs. V. Edwards, donation towards upkeep of the village flower boxes.

(5) Cq. No. 000679 - £193.55, Mrs. D. Benham, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for December.

(6) Cq. No. 000680 - £1.00, HMRC, PAYE for December.

b) Current position.

A copy of the receipts and payments, bank reconciliation and bank statement had been sent to all councillors prior to the meeting.

6. **Planning** – Update on previous applications.

20/01318/TREE – Fell two elm trees, land near junction between The Lane and St. Ives Road.

In progress.

20/02285/HHFUL – Side and front extension No1 Trinity Hall Cottage. New timber shared garage No1 & No2 Trinity Hall Cottage, Church Street, Old Hurst. Pending.

Sunnica Energy Farm (Burwell area), Statutory consultation. Circulated to councillors on 22/12/20. No comments to be returned.

## 7. **Correspondence:**

Forwarded to councillors:

a) Rural Bulletins.

b) Roadworks and Events reports.

c) Highway Events Diary.

d) Rural Funding Digests.

e) IHMC Incident reports.

f) Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Against Scams information.

g) Information on who to contact in the event of a flood. Flow-chart to be placed on the noticeboard and the Parish Council website.

h) Covid safe winter – Festive activities.

i) Citizens Advice Bureau request for a donation. Circulated to councillors and agreed that there is no provision in the budget.

j) Email giving information on "This Land", development company owned by CCC.

k) Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Service – poster on the noticeboard.

**8. Reports from councillors.**

District Cllr. Bull advised that One Leisure sites were currently closed due to the lockdown. The Local Campaign was doing well, with £3.75 million secured for St. Neots from the High Street Futures Fund. Cllr. Bull advised that Brampton Road is closed at weekends for bridge removal works.

County Cllr. Criswell had emailed his report: The Covid Hub is once again responsible for 32,500 shielding vulnerable residents. All have been contacted and have access to help if they need it. All those eligible for free school meals have received food vouchers over the Christmas holidays and this will be repeated over February half term. Our local NHS vaccination centre is at St Ives and the Hub can arrange transport for anyone struggling to get there safely when they are called. Hub tel. is 03450 455 219. Localised flooding has been a considerable concern with recent heavy rain following on from four times the average December rainfall just before Christmas. Multi-agency investigation is being co-ordinated locally by HDC. Water levels are the highest since 1998.

Cllr. Martin reported that he had discussed the parking issues surrounding the Christmas Fayre held at Johnsons, with Mr. Johnson. Due to the very wet weather, unfortunately, the overflow car park could not be used which resulted in many vehicles being parked on village roads. Mr. Johnson felt that there was nothing he could do to prevent this and advised that residents needed to report any obstruction to the police at the time.

Cllr. Mackenzie wished it to be minuted that she had received complaints regarding flooding at The Grove and that she had sought advice from the Chairman and the Clerk. As both The Grove and the land that the floodwater appeared to be coming from are privately owned, Cllr. Mackenzie had been advised to contact the landowners direct. The Clerk advised that it might be beneficial to attend the meeting with Kathryn Reading on 4<sup>th</sup> February.

**9. Date of the next meeting:** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 starting at 7pm by Zoom conferencing. Joining details to be published on the next agenda.

Signed.....

Date.....