

Minutes of the Meeting of Old Hurst Parish Council  
held at St. Peter's Church, Old Hurst, on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

**Councillors present:** Mrs. C. Bussetil, Mr. S. Charman, Mrs. J. Mackenzie, Mr. I. Martin (Chairman), Mrs. E. Taylor & Mr. A. Torrance.

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

**Public participation:** The parishioner present advised that she had reported two cars left on The Lane. One had been abandoned and was removed by HDC. The other had been moved to Wellington Close. The Police had also attended following complaints of parked cars on The Lane that were obstructing the footway.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr. G. Bull, District Cllr. M. Haines & County Cllr. S. Criswell – all attending another meeting.

2. **Co-option to fill councillor vacancy:** The Clerk confirmed that there had been no requests for an election to fill the vacancy and that HDC had confirmed that the Parish Council could proceed to co-option. Cllr. Martin proposed that Simon Charman be co-opted on to the Parish Council. Seconded by Cllr. Torrance and unanimously agreed. Mr. Charman signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was handed a Register of Interests form to complete and return to HDC. Clerk to arrange for Cllr. Charman to attend a councillor training course and to supply a councillor email address.

3. **To receive declarations of interest:** None declared.

4. **Minutes of the previous meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021:** Approval of the minutes proposed by Cllr. Mackenzie, seconded by Cllr. Torrance and unanimously agreed.

5. **New bench:** Since the last meeting, Cllr. Bussetil had reported that the old bench at the corner of Church Street and Warboys Road, was in need of repair. Councillors agreed via email that it should be replaced with a bench of manmade material that would be maintenance free. Cllr. Bussetil had very kindly offered to pay for the new bench and a memorial plaque in memory of her late husband. The Clerk had ordered a bench from Glasdon UK Ltd. and Cllr. Bussetil had given the Clerk a cheque to reimburse the Parish Council. Cllr. Bussetil had arranged for the old bench to be removed and disposed of, and Councillors had agreed that the Parish Council would pay for a new concrete base and for the new bench to be secured to it. Cllr. Martin proposed that the quote received from T.C.Howard Property Maintenance Services for £550 be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Torrance and unanimously agreed.

6. **Local Highways Initiative 2022/23:** Last year, councillors discussed the possibility of applying for funding for a new stretch of footpath from the junction of The Lane and St. Ives Road to the junction of St. Ives Road and Woodhurst Road. The Highways Supervisor had estimated that a constructed footpath of some 350 metres would cost approximately £87,500, which was far in excess of the scheme maximum of £15,000. Councillors also discussed a flashing speed sign but Cllr. Martin explained that recent Speedwatch figures did not justify this. The Clerk suggested applying for funding to join the footpath from the Village Hall site to the new footpath along the front of the Chorus Homes on The Lane. Cllr. Martin proposed that the Clerk make an application to the Local Highways Initiative as per her proposal. Seconded by Cllr. Torrance and unanimously agreed.

## **7. Matters arising from the minutes:**

### **a) Roads and footpaths –**

The Clerk had emailed the Highways Supervisor to remind him that he had agreed to arrange for the double yellow lines on Church Street to be repainted before summer and to liaise with Chorus Homes regarding the anti-social behaviour of their tenant, who continues to drive across the verge and new footpath on The Lane. The Clerk had reported the overgrown hedges at the junction of St. Ives Road and The Lane. The Clerk had passed a request for a litter bin to be placed at the entrance to the stopped up road to HDC and is awaiting a response. Clerk to contact County Cllr. Criswell regarding faded white lining at the A141 junction with Woodhurst Road. A parishioner has already reported this but has been told that it is below intervention level.

b) Speedwatch – Cllr. Martin advised that Speedwatch had carried out 4 sessions. Results show that very few vehicles had been recorded exceeding the speed limit.

c) Flooding - Kathryn Reading, Senior Flood Risk Officer at CCC, had provided an update: She continues to engage with residents around the Lancaster Close area regarding reinstatement of the ditch running across the back of Lancaster Close, and is also pursuing extensive riparian maintenance of the next section of ditch, which runs along St. Ives Road and into the cart pond. Several residents of Blenheim Crescent are in contact with Bewick Homes trying to establish the location of their property's soakaways and any supporting information.

## **8. Finance.**

### **a) Payment of outstanding debts.**

Cllr. Torrance proposed retrospective approval of payments (1) to (10) and approval of payments 911) to (12). Seconded by Cllr. Bussetil and unanimously agreed.

(1) Cq. No. 000695 - £90.00, Evolve Tax & Accountancy, internal audit fee.

(2) Cq. No. 000696 - £150.00, Mr. A. Abbs, grass verge cut.

(3) Cq. No. 000697 - £75.00, CAPALC, councillor training course for Cllr. Torrance.

(4) Cq. No. 000698 - £27.54, K & M Lighting Services Ltd., Street lighting maintenance.

(5) Cq. No. 000699 - £150.00, Mr. A. Abbs, grass verge cut.

(6) Cq. No. 000700 - £213.19, Mrs. D. Benham, wages and expenses of Parish Clerk for May.

(7) Cq. No. 000701 - £0.80, HMRC, PAYE for May.

(8) Cq. No. 000702 - £150.00, Mr. A. Abbs, grass verge cut.

(9) Cq. No. 000703 - £189.95, wages and expenses of Parish Clerk for June.

(10) Cq. No. 000704 - £1.00, HMRC, PAYE for June.

(11) Cq. No. 000705 – £679.16, Glasdon UK Ltd., bench.

(12) Cq. No. 000706 - £133.20, askiT Services Ltd., annual webhosting subscription, annual domain name registration & annual website maintenance.

### **b) Current position.**

A copy of the receipts and payments, bank reconciliation and bank statement, had been sent to all councillors on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

### **c) Upgrade to Parish Council laptop.**

The Parish Council laptop has started to run very slowly and askiT Services have advised that it requires an upgrade. Cllr. Mackenzie proposed that the quote from askiT Services Ltd. of £135 inc. VAT to supply and install a memory chip and 250GB Solid State Drive be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Bussetil and unanimously agreed.

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

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

10. **Correspondence:**

Forwarded to councillors:

- a) Highways Events Diary.
- b) Foster Care Fortnight information.
- c) IHMC incident report.
- d) Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Against Scams Partnership updates.
- e) EV charging points press release.
- f) One Leisure Concessionary Scheme press release.
- g) Roadworks and Events report.
- h) Covid briefings.
- i) Holiday activity and food programme for the summer holidays.
- j) News from the Combined Authorities.
- k) Virtual meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner 19<sup>th</sup> July – nobody available to attend.
- l) Monthly fostering newsletter.
- m) Top up business grants press release.
- n) Grafham and Ellington Neighbourhood Plan submission.
- o) Road Safety Education newsletter.
- p) Consultation on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy HDC

11. **Reports from councillors.**

Cllr. Bussetil wished to record thanks to Mr. Thomas and Mr. McCann, who kindly removed and disposed of the old bench. Clerk to ask HDC to move the litter bin further away from where the new bench will be sited. Clerk to ask Mr. Abbs to blow away the grass cuttings from the footways in future. Clerk to find out whether Old Hurst can have an area of wildflower verge.

Councillors wished to record thanks to Mrs. Edwards, Mr. & Mrs. Duke, Mrs. Bussetil and Mrs. Torrance, who have sided-out the footway along The Lane, making it easier and safer to use.

Cllr. Torrance and Cllr. Charman agreed to look into producing a Parish Council newsletter.

12. **Date of the next meeting:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 starting at 7pm in St. Peters Church, Old Hurst.

Signed.....

Date.....