

OLD HURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Old Hurst Parish Council
held in The Church of St. Peter on Wednesday 16th March 2016.

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

Also present: Mrs. D. Benham (Clerk), 1 parishioner & Police Sergeant Street.

Public participation: No issues were raised.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr. G. Godby (personal) & County Cllr. S. Criswell (attending another meeting).

2. **Declarations of interest:** Cllr. Pearce and Cllr. Fox declared an interest in item 5d, both being residents of Wellington Close.

3. **Parish Council election:** To be held on Thursday 5th May 2016. Nomination papers are available from The Clerk or HDC. District Council and Police & Crime Commissioner elections will be held on the same day.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th January 2016:** Unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

a) Repairs to roads and footpaths – The street light above the phone box and on Church Street have both been repaired. Highways have written to the owner of PWP Valeting, to ask for the illegal advertising in the highway to be removed.

Old Hurst's bid for funding to provide traffic calming on The Lane was successful. Larger 30mph signage, 30 mph roundels on the carriageway and junction warning signs will be installed during the coming financial year.

b) Speedwatch – Sessions to resume once the clocks go forward. Councillors discussed several emails received from Community Roadwatch and agreed that the Parish Council do not want Roadwatch, which is not endorsed by the police, to operate in Old Hurst.

c) Refurbishment of the post box – The Clerk had chased this with Royal Mail and had received apologies that the work had not yet been carried out and a commitment that it would be done within the next 12 weeks.

d) Wellington Close parking – Police Sergeant Street advised that the resident who had been parking a caravan and trailer outside the Village Hall, had been served with a Community Protection warning letter. The offending vehicles had since moved on. Cllr. Sawyer advised that having established that the verge on Wellington Close belonged to CCC, Luminus are now looking into the possibility of providing additional parking.

6. **Application to the Transparency Fund.**

The Clerk advised that Government funds were available for smaller Parish Councils to purchase a laptop and printer in order to comply with the new requirement to publish documents on a website. The Clerk currently uses her own equipment, but this was an opportunity to acquire funding to buy

a laptop and printer for Parish Council use only. Advice had been sought from askiT Services and an application submitted via CAPALC to the Transparency Fund. Cllr. Taylor proposed retrospective approval of the action taken by the Clerk. Seconded by Cllr. Pearce and unanimously agreed.

7. **Finance.**

a) Payment of outstanding debts.

Cllr. Mackenzie proposed retrospective approval of payment of items (1) to (5) and approval of payment of item (6). Seconded by Cllr. Fox and unanimously agreed.

(1) Cq. No. 000458 - £24.00, Mrs. L. Sawyer, reimbursement for bulbs purchased.

(2) Cq. No. 000459 - £101.84, Mrs. D. Benham, wages & expenses for January.

(3) Cq. No. 000460 - £23.20, HMRC, PAYE/NI for January.

(4) Cq. No. 000461 - £95.43, Mrs. D. Benham, wages for February.

(5) Cq. No. 000462 - £23.00, HMRC, PAYE/NI for February.

(6) Cq. No. 000463 - £69.13, K & M Lighting Services Ltd. quarterly street lighting maintenance charge.

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

c) Internal audit arrangements – Councillors unanimously agreed that Brian Cox & Co. should carry out the internal audit for year ending 31st March 2016.

8. **Police matters:** Police Sergeant Street provided a summary of the crimes recorded for Old Hurst over the previous 6 months and confirmed that crime levels remained low.

9. **Correspondence.**

a) Ballot for Buckingham Palace Garden Party tickets – Old Hurst was unsuccessful.

b) Details of Electoral Review of Huntingdonshire – emailed to councillors on 26/1.

c) Electoral Review of Cambridgeshire – final recommendations can be viewed at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/4143>

d) CAPALC AGM minutes and presentation – emailed to councillors on 3/2.

e) Neighbourhood Planning workshop at HDC on 15/3 – attended by Cllr. Sawyer and the Clerk.

f) Neighbourhood Planning Roadshow at ACRE on 21/3

g) Information about forthcoming elections – forwarded to councillors on 14/3

h) Acknowledgement of Precept request from HDC. Band D charge will be £51.55 p.a.

10. **Reports from Councillors.**

District Cllr. Bull advised that as a result of the Boundary Review, Old Hurst may be grouped with Warboys rather than Somersham. Devolved powers to Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk had been announced in the Chancellor's budget but no details are available yet.

Cllr. Sawyer and the Clerk had attended a workshop on Neighbourhood Planning and felt that this could be a costly and time consuming process, perhaps better suited to larger parish/town councils. Clerk to forward presentation slides when received and councillors to view details at:

<http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/2074/neighbourhood-and-community-planning.pdf>

CIL money - Clerk to research prices of small bus shelters and replacement street lights.

11. **Date of the next meeting:** Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 18th May 2016, starting at 7.30pm in the Church of St. Peter, Old Hurst.

Signed.....

Date.....