

Minutes of the Meeting of Old Hurst Parish Council
held at St. Peter's Church, Old Hurst, on Wednesday 16th March 2022.

Councillors present: Mr. G. Bull, Mr. I. Martin (Chairman) & Mr. A. Torrance.

Also present: District Cllr. M. Haines, Mrs. D. Benham (Parish Clerk) and 3 parishioners.

Public participation: A parishioner asked whether the Parish Council would provide funding for further planting of bulbs in the grass verges and the village flower boxes. The Clerk explained that money had been allocated for both in the budget for 2022/23.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr. E. Taylor (personal) & County Cllr. S. Criswell (personal).

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

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th January 2022:** Approval of the minutes proposed by Cllr. Torrance, seconded by Cllr. Bull and unanimously agreed.

4. **To consider quotes for grass verge cutting:** The Clerk had contacted 5 contractors to request quotations for cutting the grass verges six times in the season in Old Hurst. RSM Maintenance and GCM Group (East Anglia) Ltd., had failed to respond despite being followed up. Cambridgeshire Garden & Property Maintenance had expressed interest but had decided not to quote due to staff shortages. Emery Grounds and Garden had quoted £1080 and HDC had quoted £1626.78. Cllr. Bull proposed that the quote from Emery Grounds and Garden be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Torrance and unanimously agreed.

5. **Arrangements for Parish and District Council elections on 5th May 2022:** The Clerk advised that there were currently three vacancies on the Parish Council but as these occurred within 3 months of the election due on 5th May, they were not being advertised. Nomination packs for the Parish Council elections are available from the Clerk or HDC, and completed forms have to be returned by hand to Pathfinder House between 28th March and 5th April. There are 7 seats available on the Parish Council. If there are more than seven nominations, a poll will take place on 5th May 2022. District Council elections will be held on the same day. All information will be published on the noticeboard. The Chairman announced that he would not be standing at the election due to other commitments in the coming year. Cllr. Bull thanked Cllr. Martin for his contribution to the Parish Council over the last four years.

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

a) Roads and footpaths –

The Clerk completed the presentation of Old Hurst's LHI Scheme bid via an online CCC panel meeting held on 2nd March and will be advised whether it was successful in due course.

The Clerk met with the Highways Supervisor on 10th March to discuss the state of the footway from The Grove to Church Street. Unfortunately, Mr. Hudson is still insisting that there is no record of the previous Supervisor's agreement to resurface the footway and advised that there were no funds available for any repairs other than those that met the intervention level of being more than 2.5 cms deep. A number of areas that meet this requirement have been marked up and should be repaired shortly. It was agreed that Mr. Hudson would try to get the footway surface dressed in 2023/4. Pot holes at the junction of The Lane and St. Ives Road, and the junction of A141 and Warboys Road have been reported.

The Clerk met with David Rook (Street Cleansing Manager HDC) on 10th February and it was agreed that HDC will move the bin on the corner of Church Street/Warboys Road, further away from the new bench so that the odour from the bin does not deter people from using the bench. Several councillors had been asked by parishioners if a bus shelter could be provided near to The Grove. A request was made to HDC many years ago and the site was placed on a waiting list. The Parish Council funded the bus shelter on Ramsey Road four years ago and councillors agreed that the Clerk should ask E. G. Baxter & Son, who made and installed it, whether they would quote for another at The Grove. The Clerk will make enquiries regarding land ownership.

b) Speedwatch –

The Chairman advised that preparations were in hand to resume sessions once the clocks go forward.

c) Flooding update –

Kathryn Reading (Senior Flood Risk Officer CCC) had advised the Clerk that a local landowner had been sent another letter on 11th March setting out details of work that is required, with the hope of resolving the issue without formal enforcement action. The Clerk had asked whether the list of ditches, pipes etc., that need regular maintenance would be looked at by CCC on an annual/biannual basis. Kathryn Reading had advised that CCC did not have an inspection schedule as this was not within their remit, nor did they have the resources available to carry this out. However, Kathryn is happy to act as a person of direct contact for Old Hurst and to respond to reports from the community should lack of maintenance or obstruction be observed.

d) Parish Council newsletter –

Since the last meeting, the newsletter had been finalised, printed by the Clerk and delivered by Cllr. Torrance. No responses to the newsletter had been received.

e) Queen's Platinum Jubilee –

The Chairman allowed the three parishioners present to join in the discussions. Mrs. Bull and Mrs. Pearce offered to help with any planned events. The Chairman advised that the Jubilee had been discussed at the last meeting, but the absence of any usable public space made it impossible for the Parish Council to host an event. Mrs. Busssetil advised that she was organising a Street Party on 5th June for residents in and around Warboys Road and that it was possible for residents from other areas in the village to join in.

7. **Finance.**

a) Payment of outstanding debts.

Cllr. Bull proposed retrospective approval of payments (1) to (3) and approval of payment (4). Seconded by Cllr. Torrance and unanimously agreed.

- (1) Cq. No. 000738 - £27.54, K & M Lighting Services Ltd., quarterly street light maintenance.
- (2) Cq. No. 000739 - £193.75, Mrs. D. Benham, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for February.
- (3) Cq. No. 000740 - £0.80, HMRC, PAYE for February.
- (4) Cq. No. 000741 - £50.00, St. Peter's Church, donation for use of church for Parish Council meetings.

b) Current position.

A copy of the receipts and payments, bank reconciliation and bank statement was sent to all councillors on 14th March 2022.

c) Internal Audit arrangements.

Cllr. Bull proposed that the internal audit should be carried out by Evolve Tax & Accountancy. Seconded by Cllr. Torrance and unanimously agreed.

d) National Salary Award for Local Government employees.

The Clerk's salary will increase from £190.95 per month to £194.25 with effect from 1st April 2021. The Chairman has sent a letter to SR Howells instructing them to update the payroll details.

8. Correspondence.

Forwarded to councillors:

- a) NALC Elections publication.
- b) NALC Events.
- c) Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Against Scams Partnership updates and newsletter.
- d) Greater Cambridge Partnership – Joint Assembly Meeting 17th February.
- e) Highways Events Diary.
- f) CAPALC Bulletins.
- g) CAPALC County Conference on-line videos.
- h) Greetings form HDC Community Protection and Enforcement Officer.
- i) Cambridgeshire Matters Newsletter.
- j) Press release – Hinchingbrooke Country Park lease.
- k) Adult Education budget consultation.
- l) IHMC Incident report.
- m) Information on the Great British Spring Clean.
- n) Citizens Advice Rural Cambs. – Donation request. No allocated funding in the Parish Council’s budget.
- o) LGA Model Code of Conduct – To be placed on the May agenda.
- p) CAPALC – Ukraine financial support, Town and Parish Councils.
- q) Easter Holidays Activities and Food Programme – poster to noticeboards.
- r) The Library Presents – programme for April to July.

9. Reports from councillors.

Cllr. Bull advised that he would not be seeking re-election as District Councillor at the May election. District Cllr. Haines advised that a new Hare Coursing bill is being brought in that will carry more severe penalties for those caught. District Cllr. Haines to request a visit from the road sweeping team and to provide details to the Clerk on who to contact at CCC for advice on wildflower planting in the grass verges. District Cllr. Haines advised that Broughton Parish Council were purchasing Jubilee commemorative coins for the children of Broughton.

10. Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 11th May 2022 in St. Peter’s Church. Annual Parish Meeting starting at 7pm, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Signed.....

Date.....