

Minutes of the Meeting of Old Hurst Parish Council  
held by Zoom conferencing on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

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

**Also present:** Mrs. D. Benham (Parish Clerk), 1 parishioner and 1 member of the public.

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:** No issues raised.

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

2. **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman:** Cllr. Bull proposed Cllr. Martin for Chairman. Seconded by Cllr. Bussetil. There being no other nominations, Cllr. Martin was duly elected Chairman and will sign an Acceptance of Office form in due course. Cllr. Martin proposed Cllr. Mackenzie for Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Cllr. Taylor. There being no other nominations, Cllr. Mackenzie was duly elected Vice-Chairman.

3. **Councillor vacancy:** Following the sad death of Cllr. Sawyer, there is now a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. The formal notice has been placed on the noticeboard and provided there is no call for an election, the Parish Council will be able to co-opt at the next meeting.

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

5. **To review Standing Orders:** Councillors agreed that no amendments were necessary.

6. **To review Financial Regulations:** Councillors agreed that no amendments were necessary.

7. **To review the Parish Council's insurance arrangements:** The Parish Council has a 5 year long term Parish Protect policy through Community Action Suffolk, underwritten by Royal Sun Alliance PLC., expiring on 30/9/2022.

8. **Minutes of the previous meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021.** Approval of the minutes was proposed by Cllr. Mackenzie, seconded by Cllr. Bussetil and unanimously agreed.

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

a) Roads and footpaths –

The Clerk had a meeting with the new Highways Supervisor, Joe Hudson, on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The Clerk drew Mr. Hudson's attention to the crumbling yellow lines on Church Street and was assured that these will be re-painted before the summer. Mr. Hudson also agreed to follow up the issue of anti-social behaviour of one of Chorus's tenants, who continues to drive across the grass verge on The Lane, causing damage to the newly refurbished footpath and the verge.

b) Speedwatch – Cllr. Martin advised that Speedwatch can now resume and that he had begun to organise the next session.

c) Flooding - The Clerk advised that Kathryn Reading, Senior Flood Risk Officer at CCC, continued to update residents and the Parish Council on a regular basis. Kathryn had attended a

meeting with Highways, spoken to three major landowners and gathered information about the history of drainage in the village. She is currently pursuing works to restore/improve the ditch system to the rear of Lancaster Close and the ditch that then follows round to the east, back down St. Ives Road and outfalls into the pond opposite Blenheim Close. There are ongoing discussions with Highways regarding cleaning the culvert under the road and definitive ownership of one section of the ditch. Kathryn has asked residents of Blenheim Close (built by Bewick Homes), for sight of the drawings of the location of the soakaways and any supporting information. Kathryn has also contacted residents at The Grove and given advice to Mr. Andrew Johnson on what works would be permitted on watercourses at Church Farm and how to apply for Land Drainage Consent through CCC.

#### 10. **Finance.**

a) Result of the internal audit.

The internal audit was completed on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021, by Evolve Tax & Accountancy with no issues raised.

b) To approve and sign the accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

A copy of the accounts, receipts and payments and bank reconciliation was sent to all councillors on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Cllr Bull proposed that the accounts be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Taylor and unanimously agreed.

c) To complete and sign the Certificate of Exemption, Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement on the Annual Return for 2020/21.

Copies of the completed Certificate of Exemption, Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement had been sent to all councillors on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Cllr. Bull proposed that the Certificate of Exemption should be signed by the Chairman and Clerk. Seconded by Cllr. Martin and unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Martin proposed that the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement be signed by the Chairman and Clerk. Seconded by Cllr. Bussetil and unanimously agreed.

d) Payment of outstanding debts.

Cllr. Torrance proposed retrospective approval of payments (1) to (8). Seconded by Cllr. Bussetil and unanimously agreed.

(1) Cq. No. 000686 - £297.15, Mrs. D. Benham, wages and expenses of Parish Clerk for March

(2) Cq. No. 000687 - £1.00, HMRC, PAYE for March.

(3) Cq. No. 000688 - £60.00, SR Howell & Co. payroll services.

(4) Cq. No. 000690 - £575.00, F. M. Evans, refurbishment of phone kiosk.

(5) Cq. No. 000691 - £242.76, CAPALC, affiliation fee 1/4/21 to 31/3/22 and Data Protection Officer Membership Scheme.

(6) Cq. No. 000692 - £229.57, E.ON, electricity for Parish Council owned street lights.

(7) Cq. No. 000693 - £213.55, wages and expenses of Parish Clerk for April.

(8) Cq. No. 000694 - £0.80, HMRC, PAYE for April.

\* Cheque number 000689 was cancelled due to processing error at Lloyds Bank.

e) Current position.

A copy of the receipts and payments had been sent to all councillors on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

f) Annual Risk Assessment.

A copy of the annual Risk Assessment had been sent to all councillors on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

#### 11. **Planning** – Update on previous applications.

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

In progress.

21/00040/FUL – Proposed steel frame lean-to to existing on site building. Church Farm, Church Street, Old Hurst, PE28 3AF. Approved by HDC.

**12. Correspondence:**

Forwarded to councillors:

- a) Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Against Scams Partnership updates.
- b) Press release re CIL funding for the Wheatsheaf Crossroads scheme.
- c) Press release re new St. Ives park.
- d) Information from Huntingdonshire Area Workshops.
- e) Details of Zoom meeting with County Broadband on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.
- f) Roadworks and events bulletin.
- g) Stagecoach service change.
- h) Recycling Tonnage report for February 2021.
- i) Join the Great British Spring Clean.
- j) IHMC Incident reports.
- k) Details of Operation Forth Bridge.
- l) Fostering poster from CCC – to the noticeboard.
- m) Press release re east west rail alignment.
- n) Election information for 6<sup>th</sup> May – to the noticeboard.

**13. Reports from councillors.**

Cllr. Martin reported on the meeting held with Matthew Briggs of County Broadband on 31<sup>st</sup> March: It became evident during the meeting that Mr. Briggs was not aware that some areas of the village already had access to Superfast Broadband, should they wish to pay for it. Consequently, County Broadband will focus their attention on contacting residents in The Lane, Church Street and The Grove.

Cllr. Bussetil wished to record thanks to Mr. Thomas and Mr. McKay, who have kindly made new bookshelves for the kiosk library.

**14. Date of the next meeting:** Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 starting at 7pm in St. Peters Church, Old Hurst.

Signed.....

Date.....