

Minutes of the Meeting of Old Hurst Parish Council
held by Zoom conferencing on Wednesday 18th November 2020.

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

Also present: County Cllr. S. Criswell, Mrs. D. Benham (Parish Clerk) and 1 parishioner.

Under the COVID-19 Pandemic (Temporary Regulations in force from 4th April 2020 expiring 7th 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 were raised.

1. **Apologies for absence:** District Cllr. J. Tavener (personal).
2. **To receive declarations of interest:** Cllr. Sawyer declared an interest in Item 5a, item (13). Cllr. Bussetil declared an interest in Item 5a, item (12).
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th September 2020:** Approval of the minutes of 16th September 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Bussetil, seconded by Cllr. Taylor and unanimously agreed.

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

a) Roads and footpaths –

The Clerk advised that Highways were about to start work to install a replacement footpath in front of the properties to the right of Wellington Close on The Lane. The work would include construction of a new ramp, to replace the steps on the left-hand side. In the meantime, the resident of 11 Wellington Close has constructed an unofficial driveway across the grass verge and removed the front garden fence. Highways will not be able to commence work on the new footway until this situation is resolved. Several complaints had been received by Cllr. Bussetil, regarding cars being parked on the verge along The Lane. The Clerk had emailed the Highways Supervisor, explaining what had occurred and asked him to deal, in conjunction with Chorus Homes. Cllr. Mallard suggested that the village hall site should be made available for parking but Cllr. Taylor and Cllr. Martin both explained that the site did not belong to the Parish Council and could only be used for a village hall. If the site is used for anything else, ownership would go to the Charities Commission, who would sell the site and distribute the proceeds amongst local charities. Although the Parish Council do not own the grass verge and have no jurisdiction over Chorus Homes' tenant's behaviour, councillors felt that it would be useful for the Clerk to try to arrange a meeting between Highways, Chorus and the Parish Council to discuss whether a way forward regarding parking, could be found.

Since the last meeting, the Clerk had been looking into various funding opportunities to see whether it would be possible to install a new footway from the junction of The Lane and St. Ives Road, and the junction of St. Ives Road and Woodhurst Road. The Highways Supervisor had estimated that a "constructed" footway would cost in the region of £87,500, putting it beyond the scope of the Minor Improvement Scheme which carries a scheme limit of £15,000. However, it might be possible to apply for funding for a simple path, made of gravel for example, which would cost much less. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should make an application for part funding from the Red Tile Wind Farm and if successful, follow up with an application to the Minor Improvement Scheme next year.

County Cllr. Criswell had asked Brian Murdoch (Highways Supervisor) to look into Cllr. Mallard's concerns regarding perceived visibility problems, being caused by trees adjacent to the road near to 11 Lancaster Close. Mr. Murdoch had not replied yet and County Cllr. Criswell agreed to follow this up.

b) Speedwatch – Cllr. Martin advised that he had taken over as Speedwatch Coordinator following the resignation of Mr. Clark, due to an impending house move. Councillors wished to record thanks to Mr. Clark for all his work over the past two years. Cllr. Martin is putting a plan together for future Speedwatch sessions and looking into other equipment that could be used.

c) Wheatsheaf Crossroads – Cllr. Criswell reported that a plan to install traffic lights was proving problematic and engineers were now looking into two further options, a staggered junction and a roundabout.

d) Quotation for painting the phone box – BT Payphones have confirmed that the kiosk does not contain any asbestos. Some of the original paint may be lead based and any contractor chosen to repaint it, will be informed of this. Since the last meeting, the kiosk had been vandalised. Cllr. Bussetil had cleaned up the kiosk and reported the incident to the police.

The Clerk had requested three quotes for repainting the kiosk. The first quote of £850 was from Mr. Tofton and was for repainting the outside only. Several requests for a revised quote to include the inside had been made, but the Clerk had not received a reply. An invitation to quote had been sent to Mr. Fawcett but no reply had been received. A third quote of £575 to paint the inside and outside of the kiosk had been received from Mr. Evans. Cllr. Bull proposed that the quote from Mr. Evans be accepted. Seconded by Cllr. Mackenzie. Councillors voted 6 in favour, 1 against. The quote from Mr. Evans will be accepted by the Clerk and the work carried out in Spring 2021.

e) Reform of the planning system – Cllr. Bull advised that HDC has submitted a number of comments, available to view on HDC's website.

5. **Finance.**

a) Payment of outstanding debts.

Cllr. Taylor proposed retrospective approval of payments (1) to (10). Seconded by Cllr. Mackenzie and unanimously agreed.

(1) Cq. No. 000665 - £150.00, Mr. A. Abbs, grass verge cutting, 6th instalment.

(2) Cq. No. 000666 - £322.65, Mrs. D. Benham, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for September.

(3) Cq. No. 000667 - £5.20, HMRC, PAYE for September.

(4) Cq. No. 000668 - £40.00, Information Commissioners Office, renewal of Data Protection registration.

(5) Cq. No. 000669 - £334.03, Mrs. D. Benham, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for October.

(6) Cq. No. 000670 - £0.80, PAYE for October.

(7) Cq. No. 000671 - £60.00, SR Howell & Co., payroll services.

(8) Cq. No. 000672 - £27.54, K & M Lighting Ltd, street lighting quarterly maintenance.

(9) Cq. No. 000673 - £10.00, Mrs. C. Bussetil, reimbursement of purchase of box for kiosk.

(10) Cq. No. 000674 - £21.60, Mrs. L. Sawyer, reimbursement of purchase of bulbs for parish planting.

Since the last meeting, the Chairman had emailed councillors asking for their agreement to purchase a Zoom licence at a cost of £143.88 including VAT. Five councillors had responded in favour and the Clerk had therefore purchased the licence and had been reimbursed in her expenses (payment 5 above). Cllr. Taylor proposed approval of the action taken by the Chairman and Clerk in purchasing the licence. Seconded by Cllr. Bull and unanimously agreed.

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.

c) Budget and precept for 2021/22

The Clerk had sent details of the expected end of financial year balance and a draft budget and precept to all councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr. Bull proposed that the draft budget of £5350 prepared by the Clerk be accepted, and a Precept of £5350 set for 2021/22. Seconded by Cllr. Mallard and unanimously agreed. A copy of the budget will be attached to the minutes and will be available to view on the website.

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.

20/00679/FUL – Proposed change of use from agricultural to café (Class A3). Church Farm, Church Street, Old Hurst, PE28 3AF. Approved by HDC.

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) Planning for the future – free webinar.
- g) CAPALC AGM 6th October.
- h) Cambridge Children’s Newsletter October 2020.
- i) Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Against Scams information.
- j) Street naming and numbering – 4 new cottages on The Lane to be known as Kerry Cottage, Angus Cottage, Galloway Cottage and Dexter Cottage.
- k) Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Proposed main modifications consultation.
- l) Police and Crime Commissioner’s briefing for councillors.
- m) Consultation on Luton Airport flight paths.

8. **Reports from councillors.**

The Chairman wished to record thanks to Mrs. Edwards and Mrs. Dumont for their efforts in planting and caring for the flower boxes, that were made by Mr. Welham and are sited at either end of Church Street. Proceeds from the coffee mornings help to fund this but have not been taking place due to COVID. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council should offer to assist financially up to the value of £100 per annum. This was unanimously agreed. Clerk to write to Mrs. Edwards.

District Cllr. Bull advised that the District Council’s budget was under severe pressure due to COVID. Cllr. Bull also advised that St. Peters Church has an online Christmas shop.

Cllr. Bussetil said that she felt that the A141 had become noisier. County Cllr. Criswell agreed to look into whether anything could be done, such as the installation of “run-quiet” surfacing. Cllr. Bull advised that until the A141 study had been completed, it was unlikely that Highways would consider any expenditure.

Cllr. Sawyer advised that their farm premises had been broken into and tools taken. Scenes of crime officers had visited and collected evidence. Nine days later, a second break-in attempt had been unsuccessful due to increased security.

Cllr. Mallard reported that he had found broken glass at the corner of Church Street, by the bus shelter, and near to The Old Stag & Hounds. It seems that this occurred on the same day that the kiosk was vandalised. The culprits are not thought to live in the village.

County Cllr. Criswell had sent a copy of his November report to all councillors prior to the meeting. It contained updates on the Annual Parish Conference, the Innovate & Cultivate Fund, Covid-19, Wheatsheaf Crossroads and CCC's budget, which has been badly affected by the pandemic, causing loss of income, increased costs and rising demand for social care.

9. **Date of the next meeting:** Wednesday 20th January 2021 starting at 7.30pm by Zoom conferencing. Joining details to be published on the next agenda.

Signed.....

Date.....