

Minutes of the Meeting of Old Hurst Parish Council  
held by Zoom conferencing on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

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

**Also present:** County Cllr. S. Criswell & Mrs. D. Benham (Parish Clerk).

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:** There were no parishioners attending the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr. E. Taylor (personal).
2. **To receive declarations of interest:** Cllr. Sawyer declared an interest in planning application reference 20/01318/TREE, having made the application on behalf of E. G. Baxter & Sons.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020:** Approval of the minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Mackenzie, seconded by Cllr. Mallard and unanimously agreed.

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

a) Roads and footpaths –

The Clerk has emailed the Highways Supervisor twice, asking for an update regarding his funding application to replace the footway on The Lane that has subsided and also to replace the steps by Wellington Close with a ramp, but has yet to receive a reply. The Highway Supervisor has written to a resident of The Lane, who is using an unofficial driveway across the existing footway. The Clerk had subsequently received a phone call from the resident, during which he accepted that there was no right of way over the verge and footway and agreed to park his car elsewhere in future. Several complaints had been received regarding cars still being parked on the verge along The Lane and photographs had been sent to Highways asking them to deal with the issue. The Clerk had dealt with a report of a large fallen branch from an elm tree on Warboys Road and had also contacted the owner of another elm with a large broken branch hanging down on St. Ives Road. Various potholes have been reported to Highways and those considered to be at “intervention level” will be repaired. A broken manhole cover outside Marsh Farm Cottage had been replaced. Cllr. Mallard asked County Cllr. Criswell to look into perceived visibility problems, being caused by trees adjacent to the road near to 11 Lancaster Close, that he believed was the responsibility of Highways. The Clerk had reported a tree on St. Ives Road that may be growing through the power lines to UK Power Networks.

b) Speedwatch – Clerk to contact the Speedwatch team for an update.

c) Wheatsheaf Crossroads – Cllr. Criswell reported that a traffic survey will be carried out in September which will measure traffic numbers and direction of travel. Results would be used in assessing whether a traffic-light control crossroads could be installed.

d) Quotation for painting the phone box – The Clerk is awaiting a revised quotation from Mr. Tofton to paint the inside and outside of the phone box.

## **5. Consultation on Reform of the Planning System.**

Consultation documents were available to all councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr. Bull suggested that the Parish Council wait for the District Council's views to become available before making any response to the consultations. Unanimously agreed.

## **6. Finance.**

a) Payment of outstanding debts.

Cllr. Mackenzie proposed retrospective approval of payments (1) to (6) and approval of payments (7) to (9). Seconded by Cllr. Bull and unanimously agreed.

(1) Cq. No. 000656 - £150.00, Mr. A. Abbs, grass verge cutting 4<sup>th</sup> instalment.

(2) Cq. No. 000657 - £189.45, Mrs. D. Benham, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for July.

(3) Cq. No. 000658 - £150.00, Mr. A. Abbs, grass verge cutting 5<sup>th</sup> instalment.

(4) Cq. No. 000659 - £27.54, K & M Lighting Services Ltd., street lighting quarterly maintenance.

(5) Cq. No. 000660 - £75.00, CAPALC, Councillor training course.

(6) Cq. No. 000661 - £189.45, Mrs. D. Benham, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for August.

(7) Cq. No. 000662 - £20.95, askiT Services Ltd, renewal of anti-virus for Parish Council laptop.

(8) Cq. No. 000663 - £191.92, Business Services at CAS Ltd., Parish Council insurance.

(9) Cq. No. 000664 - £111.61, Mrs. D. Benham, refund of overpayment of income tax 2019-20.

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) NJC pay agreement 2020/21 for Local Government employees.

The Clerk's pay will be increased by 34p per hour backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. The Chairman had written to S R Howells advising of the change.

## **7. Planning.**

a) New application.

20/01318/TREE – Fell two elm trees, land near junction between The Lane and St. Ives Road. The application had been circulated by email and returned recommending approval. Cllr. Sawyer took no part in the decision having declared an interest.

b) Update on previous application.

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

## **8. 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) Information on COVID-19 from various agencies.

g) Cambridgeshire Local Council Conference 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020, to take place online.

h) Buckden Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

i) BMI can do it promotion.

j) Planning for the Future: Planning White Paper.

k) Securing against trespass and gypsy encampments.

l) Renewal of the Huntingdonshire Dog Control PSPO.

m) Changes to local bus services.

- n) Letter regarding a proposed litter picking network. Councillors agreed that they were happy with the informal litter picks currently arranged by a parishioner.
- o) Great British September Clean.

**9. Reports from councillors.**

Cllr. Bussetil suggested that the Parish Council should confirm that the telephone kiosk did not contain any harmful substances. Cllr. Bussetil to arrange an inspection. Cllr. Sawyer asked the Clerk to remind the grass cutter that the final cut was due. Cllr. Mallard asked the Clerk to update details on the Parish Council website.

Summary of report sent by County Cllr. Criswell following the meeting: The County Council’s response to Covid-19 has moved to Outbreak Management. Outbreaks are currently mainly in households. Some businesses have been affected, particularly food packing plants where workers tend to share transport. Bluntisham school has had to send a class “bubble” home to isolate and laptops are provided for lessons at home. Those infected are now primarily the 18-30 age group. Test and Trace is currently being run by the NHS and the County Council have asked Government to allow it to run the scheme locally. As part of the County Council moving to a new, smaller HQ at Alconbury Weald, staff will be dispersed across the county, closer to the communities they serve. That will allow “Place-based” services to be delivered, designed to meet the local needs. Old Hurst will be clustered with villages around Warboys and Somersham. More details will be given at the Parish Council Conference on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**10. Date of the next meeting:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 starting at 7.30pm by Zoom conferencing. Joining details to be published on the next agenda.

Signed.....

Date.....