

OLD HURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Old Hurst Parish Council
held in Old Hurst Village Hall on Thursday 16th January 2014.

Councillors present: Mr. G. Bull, Mrs. G. Godby, Mrs. J. Pearce, Mrs. L. Sawyer (Chairman), Mrs. K. Simpson & Mrs. E. Taylor.

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

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr. E. Jones (Attending another meeting) Absence was noted and approved by Council.

2. **Declarations of interest:** None declared.

3. **Public participation:** A parishioner raised questions regarding the new footpath and requested that the Parish Council consider making a bid in the future, to extend the new footpath to Wellington Close. The Clerk will ask Highways to arrange for the existing pathway on the opposite side of the road to the new ramp, to be sided-out.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st November 2013:** Unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

a) Highways Improvement Scheme 2013 – The works are now complete. The Clerk will now contact Luminus to arrange a meeting to discuss the overhanging tree and poor state of the driveway that crosses the path near to the Village Hall.

Highways Improvement Scheme 2014 – The Clerk submitted a written application for funding to install a traffic island at the junction of The Lane and St. Ives Road in early December. The Clerk and Chairman attended Highways on 9th January to do a presentation in support of the bid.

b) First responder scheme – As agreed at the last meeting, this was raised at the village coffee morning on 2nd December. Councillors agreed that it would not be possible to take part in the scheme due to the lack of volunteers and the costs involved.

c) Huntingdonshire Parish Conference – A copy of the conference notes were sent to all councillors. The first part of the conference concentrated on the financial pressures on both the District Council and the County Council over the next five years. It was made very clear by a series of speakers that all services were being reviewed in order to make substantial savings. The second part of the conference focused on how Parish Councils might fill the gaps when services are reduced or withdrawn. It was suggested that volunteers could be used to assist in this and there were further speakers from organisations who could help with funding applications and give advice on recruiting volunteers. Somersham Parish Council have started a number of initiatives, including a time bank, and County Cllr. Criswell suggested that larger villages may act as hubs for smaller villages and that neighbouring parishes could work together in providing services. It was agreed that the Parish Council would need to establish what services our parishioners used and where they currently access these services, possibly by the use of a survey. County Cllr. Criswell will arrange for a Local Joint Committee meeting in February so that these issues can be discussed further with other parishes.

- d) Winter gritting routes – the Clerk had asked for Church Street to be added to the regular gritting route but the request had been unsuccessful. Clerk to check with CCC whether Church Street should qualify as it is on a regular bus route.
- e) Damage to village sign – Repair complete.

6. **Planning:**

Application ref. 1301520FUL – Change of use from general industry to car sales. Unit 5, Grove Business Park. Application withdrawn.

7. **Finance.**

a) Payment of outstanding debts.

Cllr. Pearce proposed retrospective approval of payment of items (1) to (3). Seconded by Cllr. Taylor and unanimously agreed.

- (1) Cq. No. 000372 - £115.05, Mrs. M. Bull, donation to the village newsletter.(Agreed at the last meeting)
 - (2) Cq. No. 000373 - £151.93, Mrs. D. Benham, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for November.
 - (3) Cq. No. 000374 - £115.05, Mrs. D. Benham, wages & expenses of Parish Clerk for December.
- b) Current position - A copy of the receipts and payments and bank reconciliation was handed to each councillor. A copy will be attached to the minutes.

8. **Police matters:** Crimes in Old Hurst shown on the police website: October–1. November-1. The Chairman read a report from the Speedwatch team: Permanent Speedwatch signs have now been installed which means that the temporary signs are no longer required when sessions are carried out. The Speedwatch team aim to carry out 2 sessions a month, the last one was on 7th January when a number of repeat offenders were logged. The next session will be on 30th January between 3pm and 4pm and will have police in attendance.

9. **Correspondence.**

Forwarded to councillors by e-mail:

- a) Draft new constitution for CCC.
- b) Cycle Legacy Grants.
- c) Cambridgeshire Future Transport Meeting 4th February, 3pm – 4pm at Ramsey Library – Cllr. Sawyer to attend.
New:
- d) Buckingham Palace Garden Party 3rd June – opportunity for a councillor and guest to enter a ballot for tickets. Councillors agreed that Cllr. Godby and Cllr. Taylor should be put forward.
- e) Parish Energy Event at Warboys Parish Centre on Thursday 13th February 7.15pm to 8pm – nobody available to attend.
- f) Huntingdonshire Health Walks leaflets.
- g) A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Consultation report can be viewed at www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/a14-cambridge-to-huntingdon-improvement-scheme/ under the publications tab.

10. **Reports from councillors.**

Cllr. Simpson handed her letter of resignation to the Clerk as she has now completed her house move away from the village. Cllr. Sawyer thanked Cllr. Simpson for the contribution that she had made during her time as a councillor. Cllr. Bull will ensure that agendas and minutes from the Road Safety Meetings previously attended by Cllr. Simpson, are circulated to councillors.

Clerk to report faulty light next to the phone box and to request that Highways side –out the footpath from Old Hurst to Warboys and repair the pot holes in the verge near to the new ramp on The Lane.

11. **Date of the next meetings:** Wednesday 19th March 2014 and Wednesday 21st May 2014..

Signed.....

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