

OLD HURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Old Hurst Parish Council
held in The Church of St. Peter on Wednesday 11th March 2015.

Councillors present: Mr. G. Bull, Mr. M. Fox, Mrs. J. Mackenzie, Mrs. J. Pearce, Mrs. L. Sawyer (Chairman) & Mrs. E. Taylor.

Also present: Mrs. D. Benham (Clerk) and 2 parishioners.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr. G. Godby (work commitment), County Cllr. S. Criswell (attending another meeting). District Cllr. Bull to arrive late due to attendance at another meeting.

2. **Declarations of interest:** Cllr. Pearce declared a prejudicial interest in item 6a, being an employee of the applicant. Cllr. Sawyer declared a personal interest in item 6a, being a close friend of the applicant.

3. **Public participation:** Mrs. Edwards advised that it had been suggested that the proceeds from the coffee mornings could be spent on flower boxes at the entrances to the village. Councillors had no objections. The Clerk will contact Highways to confirm that this is acceptable and provide Mrs Edwards with some possible options. Mrs. Edwards noted that the snowdrops in the verge near to the phone box had been damaged by the activities of the builders at Marsh Farm and the verge reduced to very rough ground. Cllr. Sawyer agreed to talk to the builders about the verge.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st January 2015:** Unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

a) Repairs to roads and footpaths –

Highways Improvement Scheme 2014 (traffic island at the junction of The Lane and St. Ives Road) – Highways have placed an order with their contractor but this has yet to be installed. Councillors noted that a number of pot holes around the village had been filled and the footpaths on Wellington Close had been resurfaced.

b) Time banking – No further news from Warboys Parish Council.

c) Speedwatch – Mrs. Edwards had attended a meeting at Police HQ on 5th March and will receive the meeting notes in due course. The police have been in attendance at a number of Speedwatch sessions in the county and have caught a substantial number of speeders.

d) St. Ives Area Road Safety Committee – Cllr. Fox attended a meeting on 10th March and reported that the issues discussed were mainly concerning St. Ives and the recent changes to Speedwatch. Cllr. Fox will attend the next meeting and then review whether further attendance is worthwhile.

e) Damage to street lights on Church Street - The Clerk had discussed the damage to two street lights with UK Power Networks and had subsequently made a claim on the Parish Council's insurance. The lights have been replaced by K & M Lighting at a cost of £768.26 plus VAT, which will be reimbursed by the insurer, less £100 excess and the VAT, which the Parish Council can claim back from HMRC.

6. **Planning:**

a) New application.

15/00305/FUL – Rear extension to provide bedroom/ensuite, alterations to form utility and roof over passageway between dwelling and garage. 2 Lancaster Close, Old Hurst, PE28 3BB.

Cllr. Taylor proposed that Old Hurst Parish Council recommend approval of the application.

Seconded by Cllr. Fox and unanimously agreed. Having declared an interest, Cllr. Pearce left the meeting whilst the application was discussed.

Cllr. Bull then joined the meeting.

b) Update on applications previously discussed.

1402140FUL – Erection of garage/store building. Homefield, Marsh Farm, St. Ives Road, Old Hurst. Approved by HDC.

c) Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036.

All councillors had been able to view the draft Local Plan and the letters exchanged between Houghton & Wyton Parish Council and their supporters and the District Council. The Clerk had also forwarded the presentation from the seminar attended by Chairman and Clerk on 2nd February. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should respond to the targeted consultation, noting the following concerns: Future of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital remains uncertain but increased hospital provision will be required, no provision for growth in smaller settlements such as Old Hurst which have little or no suitable affordable housing for young families, no information on provision of places of worship, provision of burial grounds and provision of new crematoria or increased capacity at the existing crematoria. All councillors were concerned about the need for new infrastructure to be in place, in particular around the RAF Wyton site, where the roads already suffer from considerable congestion.

7. **Finance.**

a) Payment of outstanding debts.

Cllr. Pearce proposed retrospective approval of payment of items (1) & (2) and approval of payment of items (3) & (4). Seconded by Cllr. Taylor and unanimously agreed.

(1) Cq. No. 000417 - £94.44 Mrs. D. Benham, wages & expenses for February.

(2) Cq. No. 000418 – £23.00, HMRC, PAYE/NI February.

(3) Cq. No. 000419 - £69.13, K & M Lighting Services Ltd. Quarterly maintenance charge for street lighting.

(4) Cq. No. 000420 - £921.91, K & M Lighting Services Ltd. Supply and install 2 new street lights.

b) Current position.

A copy of the receipts and payments and bank reconciliation was handed to each councillor.

c) Request for a donation from Magpas.

Councillors agreed that no donation should be made.

8. **Police matters:** Crimes in Old Hurst shown on the police website: December – nil, January – nil.

9. **Correspondence.**

a) Receipt from the Archive Office for 3 folders of accounts from 2009 – 2012. Accession number 5730.

b) Minutes of the Local Joint Forum for parishes in Huntingdonshire held on 24/11/14. Cllr. Sawyer to attend the next forum on 13/4/15.

- c) Community Work Placement Scheme – mandatory scheme for jobseekers, requiring them to carry out work in the local community for up to 30 hours a week for 6 months. Councillors agreed that Old Hurst Parish Council would struggle to occupy and supervise someone but would reconsider if other parishes wished to share.

10. **Reports from councillors.**

Councillors agreed that the Clerk should obtain a quote to refurbish the village benches.

11. **Date of the next meeting:** Wednesday 20th May 2015. Annual Parish Meeting to start at 7pm, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm in the Church of St. Peter, Old Hurst.

Signed.....

Date.....