

# ST. NICHOLAS HURST PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HURST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP HELD VIRTUALLY VIA "GOOGLE HANGOUTS" ON WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020 at 7.30p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Wayne Smith (Chairman, St Nicholas Hurst PC), Lou Robinson, Ruth Graesser, John Edwards, Brian Thomas, Penny Curry and Duncan Kendall.

APOLOGIES: Gemma Moore and Mac Stephenson

OFFICERS: Mrs. M. Bradshaw (Clerk).

### 0102 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Gemma Moore. Mac Stephenson attempted to join the call but could not make a successful connection.

The Chairman acknowledged the very sad loss of Councillor Howard Larkin – his wise input would be greatly missed by all on the Working Group.

### 0103 **Prejudicial Interests**

There were no prejudicial interests to declare.

### 0104 **Update on the Local Plan**

The Chairman briefed the group regarding the latest progress with the Local Plan. Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) is currently working through 750 responses received to the Local Plan consultation. The Government will not be awarding the anticipated £252m infrastructure fund and the council is speaking with them regarding funding opportunities. Grazeley is looking a less viable option and the Council is now considering "Plan B". In the meantime, Members of Parliament are writing to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State explaining that housing numbers remain too high.

Fifty Hurst residents responded with not all comments being negative regarding the two potential sites identified within the Parish. Penny Curry confirmed that she had spoken to some people who were supportive and saw the two identified sites as good infill opportunities. The Chairman confirmed that he too had been approached by some parishioners. Mostly, comments were positive.

Chairman's Initials .....

The issue of a further identified site in the village was discussed and the Chairman asked the group whether they would be interested in pursuing this site. They agreed unanimously “no”.

**0105 Consultation on areas for designation as Local Green Spaces**

LR presented two reports which she had completed in response to the Local Green Spaces Consultation. The Chairman commended her on the outstanding effort she had put into the highly comprehensive and well researched documents. He thanked her on behalf of the Group. The Chairman confirmed that the documents would need to be presented to the Parish Council before submission to WBC. LR would complete a further report so three could be presented to the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: the three character assessments for Local Green Spaces to be considered at the July meeting of the Parish Council with a view to being sent to WBC thereafter.

**0106 Timeline going forward**

The Chairman confirmed that due to the pandemic no referendums could be held until May 2021 at the earliest. The process would be the neighbourhood plan would go to WBC, then the Inspector and then the referendum stage.

**0107 Agreement of keys tasks to be achieved before next meeting**

Ahead of the next meeting, planned for the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021, the following tasks to be completed:

- LR to produce third character assessment;
- Three character assessments to be presented to the July meeting of the Parish Council; and
- Members of the Group to examine other published Neighbourhood Planning documents to compare what policies are included.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman's Initials .....