

Chairman: Cllr Ian Kitson

Clerk: Mrs Miriam Edwards
Tel: 07768 453772 ; email: clerk@hurstbournetarrant-pc.gov.uk
Website: www.hurstbournetarrant-pc.gov.uk

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 18th November 2024 at 7.30pm, held at the Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre.

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Councillors present:

Cllr Ian Kitson (Chairman)
Cllr John Bentley
Cllr Neil Hedger
Cllr Louisa Russell
Borough Councillor Phil North
Clerk

61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

61.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Thomas, Cllr Jamie Williams, and County Councillor Kirsty North. Councillors agreed the absences.

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

62.1 There were no declarations of interests relating to items on the agenda or requests for dispensations, in accordance with the Council's code of conduct.

63. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

63.1 Cllr Bentley proposed, Cllr Hedger seconded, and Councillors agreed and approved the minutes of the last meeting which was held on 21st October 2024, and which were signed by the Chairman.

64 ACTIONS ARISING

64.1 KGV storage container. The clerk was awaiting further update from Cllr Williams and from Test Valley Borough Council regarding the release of S106 funds.

64.2 HCC visit to The Square/A343, HBT – Cllr Hedger updated that the bollards had been replaced, and he had received a response from Highways stating that they prioritise roads which are classed as being dangerous regarding a risk to life or where deaths have occurred. After the recent resurfacing works, the centre line at The Square had not been repainted, which had been a suggestion by Highways in the past to make drivers consider the road conditions. He hoped to recommence Speedwatch sessions in the New Year. He highlighted that Enham Parish had speed indicator devices at both ends of the village and whether there was worth in considering these for the outskirts of HBT? Cllr North advised that they should be moved on a regular basis. Cllr Hedger tasked to research further including costings.

64.3 Test Way overgrown path, Ibthorpe (Ibthorpe Manor land). The landowner was undertaking major works in the water meadow and had removed the post and rail fence along the right of way. There had been information forthcoming that it may not be reinstated in its old

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format, to allow for easier maintenance of the path by either a tractor mower or natural grazing.

- 64.4 Fallen branch from a willow tree, Church St, HBT. Clerk to contact the TVBC tree officer to assess, and also ask them to look at the dying ash (Farthings, Stoke Road) and also issue a reminder to residents about responsibility of trees on their land which overhang public roads or paths.
- 64.5 HTCC access road potholes. Cllr Williams was thanked for his time and effort with repairing the entrance to the HTCC and other potholes within the car park. This had saved a great deal of expense.
- 64.6 Dene Green. Topsoil had been kindly donated by Mr Justin Stacey, a local builder working in a neighbouring village, as well as leftover grass turf. This had been used to create higher bunds along the back ditch on Dene Green, to prevent leaching of flowing groundwater onto the green (and subsequently down the A343). The council wished to thank Mr Stacey as well as Mr Edwards, the River Shepherd, for organising this all at no expense.
- 64.7 Old telephone exchange, Andover Road. A van was being lived in, and the site had been extended outside the boundary into the woods of Hurstbourne Common. Cllr Bentley to inform the Enforcement Officer. Cllr North to investigate once the matter was logged on the Borough Council’s system and to follow up.

65. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 65.1 There were two members of the public present.
- 65.2 Thanks were received from HTCC for Cllr Williams’ work to repair the potholes on the access road.

66. PLANNING

Councillors discussed the following applications:

- 66.1 24/02620/VARN| Variation of Condition 2 (Approved plans) of 24/01099/VARN (Erection of detached dwelling and outbuildings; with associated parking, turning, landscaping, access and private amenity space) to allow for amendments to landscaping proposals| **Hurstbourne Manor Hurstbourne Tarrant**. No comment.
- 66.2 24/02583/FULLN| Demolition of garage, erection of garage, and tractor shed, and erection of 2.4 m high close boarded fence, and 1.2m high post and rail fence| **Church Farm Church Street Hurstbourne Tarrant**. Cllr Williams had circulated his opinion to councillors. The application was the same as the previous submission except for some supporting information to ensure the application adhered to local policy and was not removing an 'employment site' The proposal clearly looked to enclose some land for the use of the adjacent house (Brookside) which the barn and fence would essentially isolate from the yard. The use of 2.4m close board fencing in the proposal whilst contradicting recommendations in the VDS would have little impact on the public visual impact. There were some contradictions in the application as to the use of the yard when compared to aerial photos from recent years, however these were not considered material enough to not satisfy Policy LE10. Lorries were clearly parked in the yard according to the photos and they were certainly used commercially up to 2021. This however would not confirm use as an employment site. The lorry operating licence was valid on the site until Oct 2024. There was no explanation of justification of the development of a tractor shed in the yard and any implication of this use. Unfortunately the applicant was not present at the meeting, to be able to clarify this. Piecemeal development made appraisal of applications difficult. Cllr Williams would speak to other councillors on his return regarding any potential comment.

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- 66.3 24/02536/FULLN| Rear infill extension, addition of new dormers to the rear of the house and reposition existing rear dormers| **Hillside The Hill Hurstbourne Tarrant**. No comment.
- 66.4 24/02541/TPON* | G1 - mixed tree line of Field Maple and Ash (TPO.TVBC.0868) - cut back branches overhanging boundary by up to 2m where they are within 2m of fabric of buildings| **Land To The South Of Dines Close Hurstbourne Tarrant**. No comment.
- 66.5 24/02534/TPON| (T1) Silver Birch x 2 - Crown reduce by upto 2m and shape (T2) Walnut - Crown lift up to 6m (T3) Lime - Crown reduce to old reduction points, up to 6m and reduce sides to suit (T4) Red Oak - Reduce lateral overhanging branches over driveway by upto 3m| **Applebrook House The Dene Hurstbourne Tarrant** . No comment.
- 66.6 24/02511/FULLN| Erect two storey side extension, and porch to entrance| **4 Hillside Upton**. The application was in line with many others in the same road. No comment.
- 66.7 24/02658/TREEN* | A1 - Laburnum - Remove dead limbs ; A2 - Mountain Ash - Fell ; A3 - Whitebeam - Fell | **Parsonage Farm, Church Street, HBT**. No comment.

* In the case of Conservation Area notifications, the Local Planning Authority does not have the ability to refuse these works. In the event that there are justifiable reasons to oppose the proposals then the Council will have to make a Tree Preservation Order before the expiry of 6 weeks from when the notification was received.

67. COUNCILLORS' UPDATES

- 67.1 Cllr Russell thanked the Parish Council for the financial support of the SWIFTS Christmas lunch (the SWIFTS was a Parish Council project and hall hire was budgeted for and funded by the Parish Council).
- 67.2 Cllr Kitson updated that he had received several complaints about overgrown hedges. At the Ibthorpe pumping station, the various hedges adjacent to the highway were owned by three different landowners, and none had cut their hedges to date (albeit with the mild weather, many were still growing). TVBC had written to a parishioner about their overgrown hedge, which must have been because of a complaint to them. The hedge had been duly cut back by the resident. The advice was that if a hedge was adjacent to the road, to report to Hampshire County Council Highways, or if a tree, to the Arboricultural Officer at Test Valley planning.

68. CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

- 68.1 The replacement zipwire on KGV was complete but would not be usable until the grass on the mound had bedded in.
- 68.2 Upton red phone box containing the defibrillator. SSEN had extended the unmetered supply until March 2025, at which point it would be terminated. Cllr Bentley suggested a solar panel which he could fit. There was the possibility of SSEN funding in 2025 which could cover this equipment. Alternatively, an insulated box could be purchased for around £400 which would cope in all but extreme cold conditions.

69. ALLOTMENTS

- 69.1 RESOLVED: Councillors reviewed the allotment risk assessment and the tenancy agreement and agreed that no changes were necessary for 2025.

70. ANNUAL REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES

- 70.1 RESOLVED: Councillors had reviewed and agreed that there were no changes required to Standing Orders, Financial Risk Assessment, Freedom of Information Publication Scheme or the Complaints Procedure. Financial Regulations had been nationally updated for 2024 and would be reviewed at a future meeting within the municipal year.

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71. PROJECT REGISTER

71.1 Cllr Thomas submitted a written report regarding a metal plaque for the Centenary Garden trough with the wording “We Will Remember Them”. The Clerk updated that there were still earmarked donations given for the Centenary Garden, and other miscellaneous donations which could be used. Councillors agreed that Cllr Thomas should research this further and report back with costings.

There were no further suggestions for specific projects. The Clerk advised that general reserves were likely to be low at the start of the 2025/26 financial year, so any projects would need to have confirmed funding before agreement.

There were earmarked reserves for flood mitigation, repairs to the Community Centre access road (50% responsibility for this fell to the Parish Council), maintenance of the tennis court, and for asset replacement. It would only be possible to increase these by using excessive general reserves or by raising capital from the precept, the latter being the only likely option for 2025.

72. FINANCE

72.1 On the day of the meeting, the bank balance stood at £6,365.01 in the Treasurer’s Account and £18,962.98 in the savings account, with earmarked reserves of £20,011.20.

72.2 The clerk had circulated the payments made since the last meeting. Cllr Russell agreed them as an accurate record.

TYPE	DATE	PAYEE	AMOUNT	REMARKS
BACS	22/10/24	Mrs M Edwards	60.00	Poppy crosses & wreath
DD	1/11/24	TVBC	118.22	Grasscutting
BACS	7/11/24	SSE	74.94	Upton phone box elec
BACS	14/11/24	SSE	54.94	Upton phone box elec
BACS	14/11/24	Kitson Consultancy Svs	360.00	Grass cutting 2024
BACS	14/11/24	HMRC	282.27	PAYE
BACS	14/11/24	Mrs M Edwards	894.74	Clerk’s salary Nov inc backpay
BACS	14/11/24	Red 76 Tax	9.60	Payroll service
BACS	14/11/24	Swifts	100.00	Christmas lunch
BACS	15/11/24	Infinity Playgrounds Ltd	11,235.80	Zipwire
DD	18/11/24	ICO	35.00	Data Protection Registration

72.3 Councillors noted the local government services pay agreement and the National Joint Council pay award for employees and relevant backpay. The hourly rate increase equated to 63p for the clerk. The Parish Council had no other employees.

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- 72.4 HCC had secured funding for the Lengthsman scheme for 2025/26 but that with increased charges, the number of hours would be less. Consideration would need to be given to budgeting for a local Lengthsman to carry out tasks within the Parish such as undergrowth on and repairs to Parish land and assets. There would be an increase of approximately £400 to cut Dene Green several times annually.
- 72.5 The Lloyds bank account (Treasurer's Account) would begin charging £4.25 per month (£51 p.a.) from December. This was similar with other banks which provided services for Parish Councils, and interest was received on savings to cover this charge. The clerk would research other banking options to invest the reserves, as the Lloyds savings account only returned a 1% interest rate.

73. NEXT MEETING

- 73.1 The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was due to be held on Monday 16th December 2024.

The meeting concluded at 20:17 hrs.

Signed Chairman

