

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held in the Village Hall on Friday the 20th April 2018 at 8.00 pm

Present: - Councillor Browne (Chairman), Councillor Brown (*correction as originally omitted*) Councillor Duddridge, Councillor Janes, Councillor Johnson (*from 8.15pm*) Councillor Wright, District Councillor Prochak, and County Councillor Barnes (*from 8.06pm*).

Twenty members of the Public, the RFO, David Hilbourne and the Clerk were in attendance.

1.0 Welcome and Apologies for absence:- Councillor Browne welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Assembly in the second year of its new format with themed displays organised by community groups and organisations.

Also in attendance were representatives from Comedy Capers, the Twinning Association, Hurst Green Brownies and Holy Trinity Church.

2.0 Approval and Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly on the 5th May 2017

Proposal to approve the minutes was made by Councillor Wright and seconded by Councillor Duddridge.

3.0 Matters arising from the Minutes:- None.

4.0 Chairman's Report and Aims for the Council:-

Councillor Browne read out his report. Attached.

Councillor Barnes arrived at 8.06pm.

5.0 Report from Responsible Financial Officer

The RFO David Hilbourne gave his report. Attached.

6.0 Report from County Councillor Barnes: -

The Chair introduced Councillor Barnes who gave his report.

Councillor Barnes reported on 2 campaigns re education this year. Robertsbridge Community College was given a pupil limit which would have plunged it into debt hence both East Sussex Councillors campaigned to get this changed. Less successful was the draft allocation to primary schools under 200 pupils which will see less money allocated after 2020 and the funding formula for this will hit Hurst Green school.

From 2020 there will be no support grant from central government although there will be specific grants available such as Education but these will be ring fenced. Most of the money will therefore have to come from residents and businesses. Basically, the burden will change from Income tax to Council tax! Councillor Barnes thinks that to make things fairer there should be a revaluation of property. In the area there is the anomaly of low-income levels with a high proportion of high value houses.

Councillor Johnson arrived at 8.15pm.

Most of the budget is going to go on Adult Social Care. But the county has integrated Health and Social Care to make savings. Still need to find 17million in savings this year and the County is looking at cost effective ways of running services.

A massive petition has been got together to present to central government to get a fairer funding formula for East Sussex.

Sadly, the mobile library service is ending to save money and due to lack of use as only around 700 hundred people now use it.

Hurst Green and Etchingham are looking into other alternative service provision.

Councillor Barnes thanked those present.

7.0 District Councillor's Report:-

District Councillor Prochak's Report:-

Councillor Prochak introduced herself. She noted that after 5 years of cost cutting all authorities were having to increase their council tax revenue this year as no more cuts can be made without local services being effected. Rother has currently made 6 million in savings and is looking at buying up commercial properties in order to get in revenue.

Councillor Prochak also noted that Rother has no temporary accommodation for the homeless at all and has been criticised by the ombudsman for this lack of provision. Only people in the top priority 'A' list waiting for housing will get considered for a home as there is just not enough housing available to go round.

Rother District Council has turned down the request for a Town Council in Bexhill despite the majority of residents wanting one.

Rother has now agreed to take over parking issues which the County will administer as parking is now a civil issue rather than criminal and Sussex police will no longer enforce this.

Councillor Prochak said that she was very impressed by the Neighbourhood plan and the number of people that attended the first meeting. The A21 was the area of most concern for those attending.

Hayes Mill Oast owners have lost their appeal and have a year to get the dwelling back to one unit.

Burghwood House has been successful in obtaining a grant for the royal wedding.

Councillor Prochak concluded her report by thanking all present.

District Councillor Browne's Report:- Cllr. Browne endorsed Councillor Prochak's report and reported that he also part of the task and finish group re housing along with Councillors Barnes and Prochak. Report attached.

8.0 Community Award presentation

The Chairman explained to those present that unfortunately this year was to be a 'gap' year with no replicant identified in time for the meeting. The Chair did however give thanks to Councillor Janes for all his exceptional work on the Village magazine.

9.0 Questions from parishioners:-

There was a question for Councillor Barnes re the additional Government funding.

Councillor Barnes noted that the actually money involved will be wiped out by other costs.

A resident asked Councillor Barnes why the Old Salehurst and Etchingam schools were still vacant and why they are not being sold or used?

Councillor Barnes responded that the schools are actually owned by the local church diocese and therefore out of county control. He did note that the county can legally borrow money to build but cannot borrow money to run services.

A resident asked Councillor Barnes if he thought Adult Social Care and Health will ever be fully integrated?

Councillor Barnes said that they will never be totally integrated but they are looking at integration of the control centre and working together.

Councillor Wright along with Councillor Browne expressed concern about the appalling state of the roads.

Councillor Barnes reported that the new contractor was not up to speed with this yet but were improving.

The Chair moved agenda item 10 up the agenda with refreshments and a chance to talk to local groups and representatives after the close of the formal part of the Assembly.

10.0 Reports from the Community:-

Report from Hurst Green Brownies:-

Report given by Sue Eyres. Attached

Report from the Twinning Association:-

Report given by Councillor Johnson. Attached.

Report from Holy Trinity Church and Renew:-

Report given by Annabelle Blackaby. Annabelle spoke about the new Renew shop which opens on a Wednesday between 9.00am-2.00pm with typical charity shop contents as well as coffee and cake on offer. All are welcome.

A report was also given on strengthening ties with the local school with them holding a Christmas Carol service in the church.

Annabelle and her husband Richard will be relaunching the village magazine on a quarterly basis and this will be for the village not specifically just for church information. Delivery options are being looked into but there will be pick up points in the village, primarily the community shop.

Report by Councillor Wright for Comedy Capers.

Councillor Wright also addressed those present on the wonderful year that Comedy Capers had, having raised over £4,000 which was an outstanding achievement for the local theatre group...

Councillor Browne thanked everyone for their reports.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the Annual Assembly and closed the meeting at 9:10pm before inviting those present to enjoy the refreshments provided.

**Signed:- Cllr. Graham Browne
Chairman**

Dated: 12th April 2019