

## HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the remote meeting held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 starting at 8.00pm

**Present:-** Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor Duddridge, Councillor Hampton, Councillor Johnson, Councillor Price and Councillor Wright and County Councillor John Barnes and District Councillor Mary Barnes.

The RFO, David Hilbourne and the Clerk were in attendance along with two members of the public.

### 1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: -

Councillor Kenchington (*unknown*) and Councillor Janes (*medical emergency*).

### 2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: -

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the remote meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

Minutes **proposed by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Duddridge.**

**3.0 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**, *in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct: to receive any disclosure by Members of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.*

None declared.

**3.1 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION** – *to consider written requests from Members for Dispensation and to consider the length of time the dispensation should be granted for i.e. as a one-off relating to a matter on this agenda, or ongoing for a set period and relating to any agenda within that period.*

None received.

### 4.0 COMMUNITY- Activities and reports: -

4.1 Neighbourhood Plan, progress report (Cllrs. Brown & Wright).

Councillor Brown gave the report.

4.2 Public Access Defibrillator purchase of replacement

**It was unanimously resolved to replace the defibrillator.** Clerk to contact Gary Spray re suppliers and maintenance.

4.3 Motion to add the awarding the Freedom of the Parish to the annual Community Award to a local resident

Councillor Brown reported that this would not replace the annual community award and would be given sparingly to local residents who had given exceptional service to the community and would not necessarily be given out annually.

Councillor Browne proposed a motion that this should be adopted and was seconded by Councillor Price.

**The motion was unanimously approved**

4.4 Clerk's report

The Clerk emailed out the report prior to the meeting.

Councillor Brown asked for an update on the Community shop valuation? The Clerk reported that it was a work in progress with issues re registration. The Clerk to update Councillors on progress.

Councillor Mary Barnes asked if any information had been rec'd re Sweethayes Farm enforcement issues and stressed how important it was to not set a precedent here for soil dumping on such a scale. Clerk to chase response.

Councillor John Barnes asked if there was any more information re the Burgh Wood enforcement issues. Clerk has not checked site lately but will look into it.

4.5 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Circulated prior to meeting and reported in Clerk's report.

4.6 Urgent issues requiring attention

None reported.

4.7 Councillors questions, none rec'd

**5.0 Finance/RFO's Report:-**

The RFO, David Hilbourne gave his report

5.1 Current financial position

Balance of accounts

Community Account (6752)	£21,190.17	as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan 2021
Community Savings (6779)	£37,589.67	as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan 2021
Renewals A/C (6760)	£30,107.82	as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan 2021

These figures are the position as at the latest statements received as shown. They do not include monies received or paid away subsequently.

Direct Debit payments

31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Eon	Gas A/c Old church	£11.88
11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Eon	Electricity A/c Old church	£27.24

Payments received

None rec'd.

5.2 Motion to approve invoices and approval and issue of Cheques

Urgent cheques drawn and paid away and not reported

Cheque No. 1001234 - Alison Eardley, Replacement for chq 1228. (second signature missing)	£2700.00
Cheque No. 1001235 - PKF Littlejohn, ext audit fee.	£408.00
Cheque No. 1001236 - G Browne, Zoom meeting cost for 1 year.	£143.88
Cheque No. 1001237 - J Ellis, Clerk's salary (December)	£588.04
Cheque No. 1001238 - D Hilbourne, RFO's salary (December)	£150.04
Cheque No. 1001239 - ES Pension Fund, Clerk's Pension contribs (December)	£175.56
Cheque No. 1001240 - Pet Waste, Clear dog bins (December)	£135.19
Cheque No. 1001241 - HMRC, remitt PAYE collected.	£120.80
Cheque No. 1001242 - Robertsbridge Gdn Machine Ctre, playground grass cut Jul-Nov.	£1,026.00
Cheque No. 1001243 - G Browne, chairman's PR expenses.	£72.84

Cheques to be authorised for this meeting

Cheque No. 1001244 - J Ellis, Clerk's salary (January)	£589.44
Cheque No. 1001245 - D Hilbourne, RFO's salary (January)	£149.84
Cheque No. 1001246 - ES Pension Fund, Clerk's Pension contribs (January)	£197.30
Cheque No. 1001247 - Pet Waste, Clear dog bins (January)	£135.19
Cheque No. 1001248 - ES Pension Fund, Clerk's Pension contribs (Sept) (replaces cheque no. 1208, lost by ESCC)	£197.30
Cheque No. 1001249 - D Hilbourne. reimburse bal. o/s Pety Cash A/c	£17.62

A resolution for approval is sought for past and present invoices (as circulated via email prior to the meeting to all Councillors) and issue of Cheques.

**Approval of Invoices and Cheques proposed by Councillor Hampton and seconded by Councillor Johnson.**

Councillor Price queried missing payment to Councillor Kenchington for replacement lock on Community Shop carried out by Battle Locksmiths. The RFO apologised and noted that he did not have any receipt for this and when provided he could pay the outstanding amount.

5.3 Motion to approve Asset Register (postponed from last meeting)

Still discussion as to what actually is an asset and further work to be done on this in the future otherwise **majority decision to approve this with Councillor Brown abstaining**

5.4 Resolution to support a precept of £42,000 for 2021-2022 as recommended by working party on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Councillor Browne gave a report on the working party meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> January and noted that there was a carry forward amount due to the limited opportunities, due to the pandemic, to spend as originally intended. With this in mind and with the RFO's recalculations after the meeting a figure of £43,435 was proposed for the 2021-22 precept.

Councillor Browne asked the two members of the Cricket Club who were present at the meeting what the Club needed by way of support and explained what the Council could and could not give grants for.

*Councillor Price left the meeting due to low battery.*

Some discussion re the grants and Councillor Browne asked the club for an updated request form. Councillor Mary Barnes reported that it might be eligible for a grant from RDC's Community Fund.

Councillor Brown noted that he believed the Parish Council owned the pavilion even though it was built and paid for by the cricket club. *Councillor Price re-joined the meeting at 21.04.*

Councillor Browne proposed that the precept figure of £43,435 be set for 2021-2 which is a reduction of 6% on the previous year.

**It was unanimously approved to support a precept figure of £43,435**

## 6.0 TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS

Councillor Johnson reported on the poor state of the fence from the school southbound along to and including the allotment field, which was overhanging the pavement.

Councillor Browne will contact the tenant re the first part of the fence but noted that the allotment section was down to the Allotment Association to deal with.

Councillor Brown asked if anything had been heard from Highways England re the scoping exercise for the two proposed roundabouts on the A21 which was due out in November 2020. Clerk to check with Francis McKenna.

6.1 Purchase of Illuminated speed indicator signs

Councillor Browne reported that this has already been approved for Station Road and he would lead on this but the A21 is more difficult as it comes under Highways England. It was suggested that RALC should be contacted re A21 moveable speed signs as some other parishes were looking into this. Councillor Hampton said she would like to help Councillor Browne with this project.

## 7.0 PLANNING: -

7.1 RDC Planning decisions

None rec'd.

7.2 Current Applications.

**RR/2020/2286/P - Grove Hill Barn, London Road, Hurst Green TN19 7PS. Single storey rear extension. Majority decision to support with one abstention.**

### **8.0 Playing & Stage Fields**

Councillor Johnson has continued to work on the Lodge Field regeneration project and will work with Councillor Brown over funding for this. The establishment of a small working party to include parents would be looked into.

**The public and press are excluded for the next agenda item due to its sensitive nature.**

The two members of the public present left the meeting

### **9.0 To consider the appointment of a new Responsible Financial Officer**

This item was discussed and it was **unanimously approved to appoint the applicant on a fixed term contract of 2 years.** Chair to action.

### **10.00 Items for the next agenda**

Neighbourhood Plan.

Other items to be emailed to Clerk as necessary.

### **11.0 Date and time of next Meeting**

The next Council meeting to be held remotely on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 at 8.00pm.

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.02pm.

Distribution of Minutes: -

All Parish Councillors

Parish Council Noticeboard

Parish Council Website

ESCC Councillor J. Barnes

RDC Councillor M Barnes.

Signed  
Chairman

Cllr. Graham Browne

Dated

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021