

## HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in Hurst Green Village Hall on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 starting at 8:00pm.

**Present:** - Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Duddridge, Councillor Hampton, Councillor Peacock, Councillor Wright and County Councillor Barnes.

The Clerk and RFO David Hilbourne were in attendance. Three members of the public attended.

**1.0 Apologies for Absence:** - Councillor Cruse, Councillor Greenfield, Councillor Janes and District Councillor Prochak.

**2.0 Minutes of the last meeting:-**

To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 25/11/14.

**Minutes proposed by Councillor Hampton and seconded by Councillor Peacock.**

**2.1 Matters arising from the Minutes: -**

No matters arising.

**3.0 Declaration of Interest: -**

No declarations rec'd.

**4.0 Community:-**

**4.1 Guest speaker**

No Guest Speaker.

**4.2 Community reports**

Mike Bird gave a report on the Hurst Green Youth Group who meet in the back room of the Community Shop on Tuesday evenings from 6.30pm-8.00pm. This is open to 10-16 year olds. Although they do a lot of their own fund raising which covers the insurance and some costs ideally they would like help to purchase more games and have more activities available and asked if the Council might make a grant in the next financial year? The Chair noted how invaluable this work was in the community and it was something that the Council would want to support provided a full costing and report was submitted to the Council.

**4.3 Resolution to make a donation to the Friends of Hawkhurst Cottage Hospital under s137**

Councillors unanimously resolved to donate £500 to this cause.

**4.4 Resolution to make a donation towards the upkeep of Holy Trinity Churchyard under LGA 1972 s125(6)**

Councillors unanimously resolved to donate £1,000 to this cause.

**4.5 County/District Councillors Report**

**County Councillor Barnes** reported that the Cabinet had discussed the budget for next year with £15million to be saved leading to a total of around £100 million saved in all. The Council was looking at new and innovative ways of working to help achieve this. It is planned to raise the Council Tax by 1.95% which will not trigger a referendum. Although there are many Government grants coming in overall the cover is dropping. The big news today is the 2<sup>nd</sup> runway at Gatwick which East Sussex is supporting.

Re Affordable Housing, there is a real shortage of housing particularly 1 bedroom homes with the Councillor Hampton asked if the political make up of central government changes would this slow up the speed of spending reforms? Councillor Barnes though not although the pace of change could be slower.

**District Councillor Browne** reported that the previous evening RDC had a lively meeting re the leisure centre. A lot of complaints are being rec'd about not being able to get through to Rother by phone.

Recycling is not as good as it should be and nationally results have gone down. Currently RDC are proposing a 0% increase in tax which will go forward to Cabinet.

## 5.0 Planning: -

### 5.1 RDC Planning decisions

RR/2014/2505/A - Ashdene Service Station, London Road, Hurst Green TN19 7QR. Renewal of existing permission (application RR/2009/1316/A) for pole for existing position. **Consent Granted.**

RR/2014/2751/P - Grove Hill Barn, London Road, Hurst Green. Proposed new access and change of use of land. **Granted**

RR/2014/2812/P - Bellhurst Oast, Coopers Corner, Hurst Green. Single storey timber outbuilding to use as garden room replacing existing greenhouse. **Granted**

RR/2014/2902/O - Bernhurst, London Road, Hurst Green. Re-building of two chimneys. **Certificate of lawful use or development, granted.**

RR/2014/2945/P Orchard Farm, London Road, Hurst Green TN19 7QS Creation of new access onto A21. **Granted.**

RR/2014/2890/P Dairy Close, London Road, Hurst Green. KT1 4BH (?) Variation of condition 2 imposed on RR/2013/1884/P to substitute drawing no. TSP445 FS15 Rev B with drawing no. 2680/14/AB/52 showing addition of 5 no. lighting bollards to improve pedestrian safety in car parking areas. **Granted.**

### Appeals

RR/2013/2533/P - Bantham Farm, London Road, Hurst Green. **Appeal dismissed.**

RR/2014/1822/P - Wincot, London Road, Hurst Green. **Appeal dismissed.**

### 5.2 Current Applications

RR/2014/2372/P Bugsell Mill Farm - Cottage 2, Bugsell Mill Lane, Hurst Green/Etchingham TN19 7QT To demolish the existing 3 bedroomed cottage and replace it with a new 3 bedroomed timber framed house.

**Majority decision against.**

RR/2014/2356/P Bugsell Mill Farm - Cottage 1, Bugsell Mill Lane, Hurst Green/Etchingham TN19 7QJ To demolish the existing 3 bedroomed cottage and replace it with a new 3 bedroomed timber framed house.

**Majority decision against.**

## 6.0 Finance/David Hilbourne,RFO's Report:-

David Hilbourne advised the Council that the Council account with BT for the Village Hall telephone has been closed with the Hall taking over this responsibility.

As the Council maintains a shared office in the Hall with use of the telephone, the RFO suggested that the Council should continue to share the costs of this facility.

**The Council unanimously agreed to this arrangement.**

A request for a donation has been rec'd from the Cricket Club and David Hilbourne suggested that in line with previous years a sum of £250 should be assigned at the Precept meeting in November.

The RFO informed the Council that he has completed the Charity Commission return for Drewetts Field.

### 6.1 Current financial position

#### Balance of accounts

Community Account (6752)	£14,337.73	as at 17th Jan 2015
Community Savings (6779)	£78.27	as at 17th Jan 2015
Renewals A/C (6760)	£3,062.11	as at 17th Jan 2015

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

1 <sup>st</sup> Nov (DD) - Greencore, rubbish removal, Drewetts.	£23.92
1 <sup>st</sup> Dec (DD) - Greencore, rubbish removal, Drewetts.	£23.92

Payments received

None

**6.2 Approval and issue of Cheques**Urgent cheques drawn and paid away

Cheque No. 100533 - J Ellis, Clerk's Salary (December)	£369.98
Cheque No. 100534 - ESCC, Clerk pension fund contribs.	£125.31
Cheque No. 100535 - D Hilbourne, RFOs salary (December)	£96.00
Cheque No. 100536 - HMRC, remit PAYE	£301.60
Cheque No. 100537 - DG Browne, Stage Field mow (Sept/Oct), Lodge & Drewetts for HGYFC	£420.00

Cheques to be authorised for this meeting*Copies of invoices re items below previously circulated via email to all Councillors.*

Cheque No. 100545 - J Ellis, Clerk's Salary (January).	£390.60*
Cheque No. 100539 - East Sussex Pension Scheme, re Clerk.	£129.25
Cheque No. 100540 - D Hilbourne, RFOs salary (January)	£96.00
Cheque No. 100541 - CiberDirect, Toner cartridge.	£26.80
Cheque No. 100538 - Spoilt	
Cheque No. 100543 - Hurst Green Parochial Church Council, donation under LGA 1972 s125(6)	£1,000.00
Cheque No. 100544 - Friends of Hawkhurst Cottage Hospital, donation under s 137	£500.00

Approval is sought for present issue of Cheques.

**Cheques proposed by Councillor Peacock and seconded by Councillor Duddridge.****\* Clerks Salary**

The RFO, under Standing Orders, Financial regulations, paragraph 8, has looked into the Clerk's salary with the latest agreed National Joint Salary scales that came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 has resulted in a slight increase in salary.

David Hilbourne has also reviewed the Clerk's contract which no longer incorporates all recent employment changes and updated the contract following NALC guidelines and model. This document has been electronically circulated to Councillors and the RFO asked the Council to adopt the updated contract.

**This was unanimously agreed, adopted and signed.****6.3 Precept for 2015-2016****Resolution to adopt Precept for 2015/2016**

The working party meeting resulted in an agreed figure for the Precept for 2015-2016 of £32,200 with a carry forward figure of around £8,000 from this financial year.

The Chair asked the Council if they wanted to adopt this figure.

**Councillors unanimously agreed to set the precept at £32,200 for the financial year 2015/16.**

Council Browne thanked David for all his work on this especially as he was unwell at the time.

**7.0 Playing & Stage Fields:-**

The fence at the entrance to Lodge Field has been vandalised and now has holes in it. David Hilbourne noted that the hedge was also overgrown. Councillor Browne will arrange for a cut and repair to be done. Clerk noted that moles were a problem in Drewetts at the moment and that the Junior football club did not appear to be using the field.

Councillor Browne reported that Councillor Greenfield had been due to visit Stage Field today but that the road was closed and therefore she could not gain access.

7.1 Update on Lodge Field Play Equipment Inspection report 2014

In Councillor Janes's absence this was not discussed.

**8.0 Footpaths, Transport & Roads**

The Clerk has chased up the blocked drain outside Sue Endean's on the A265 and it has been put down for a visit however there appears to be only one drainage team so it could take a while before they visit.

Councillor Barnes will look into this issue as the Council is very concerned about this due to its location and the dangers the water poses on this stretch of road.

Potholes to report at entrance to Merriments Lane.

Highways meeting due to take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> February in the Village Hall with Greg Barker MP.

**9.0 Notices and Correspondence:-**

*Correspondence previously circulated via email*

10.1 Urgent issues requiring attention

None.

**11.0 Items for the next agenda:-**

None requested.

**12.0 Date and time of next Meeting:-**

The next meeting is on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 8.00pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Distribution of Minutes: -

All Parish councillors.

Parish Council Noticeboard.

ESCC Councillor J. Barnes.

RDC Councillor S. Prochak.

Signed

Chairman

Dated