

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in Hurst Green Village Hall on Tuesday 24th November 2015 starting at 8:00pm.

Present: - Councillor Browne (Chairman), Councillor Cruse, Councillor Funnell, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Janes, Councillor Johnson, Councillor Peacock, Councillor Wright and County Councillor Barnes.

The Clerk and the RFO David Hilbourne were in attendance and 3 members of the public.

1.0 Apologies for Absence: -Councillor Duddridge 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 27th October 2015.

Minutes proposed by Councillor Janes and seconded by Councillor Cruse.

3.0 Declaration of Interests: -

Councillors Browne and Wright declared an interest in agenda item 5.2, Councillor Browne re RR/2015/2706/FN and RR/2015/2683 and Councillor Wright re RR/2015/2706/FN

4.0 Community Activities:-

The annual lighting of the holly tree in the grounds of the Community Shop will take place on the 6th December in conjugation with Holy Trinity Church. It will start with a tour around the village and end at the shop with carols.

4.1 Community Warden Scheme

Hurst Green has been invited to a meeting with Etchingham, Ticehurst and Flimwell, Salehurst and Wadhurst Parish Councils to consider a joint scheme to employ a community warden. Details sketchy as yet but limited powers. Clerk to get more information.

4.2 County/District Councillors Report

County Councillor Barnes reported that Hurst Green School had just had a good inspection report which was excellent news.

Latest news re boundary changes will see Stonegate linked with Hurst Green, Flimwell and Ticehurst and Salehurst remaining with Robertsbridge.

District Councillor Browne noted that RDC had just had a lengthy discussion re civil parking enforcement (main agenda item) which he supported.

Councillor Peacock reported that he had attended a RALC meeting in Battle which was interesting. Had included a talk on floods and use of websites. If websites used properly may not need to use an external auditor. Further details will be available on SSALC website.

5.0 Planning: -

5.1 RDC Planning decisions

RR/2015/2320/P - 95 London Road, Hurst Green TN19 7PN. First floor addition. **Granted.**

5.2 Current Applications

*Councillor Wright declared an interest in the next agenda item and Councillor Browne in the next 2 items
Councillor Browne stood down as Chair and Councillor Janes took over as Chair*

RR/2015/2706/FN - 1 Ticehurst Road, Hillside Cottages, Hurst Green TN19 7QT Proposed building to store and repair agricultural machines. **Supported.**

RR/2015/2683/P - Pooks Field Farm, London Road, Hurst Green TN19 7QS. Extension to form annexe for disabled relative. **As applicant well known to all Councillors did not feel it was appropriate to comment on this application.**

Councillor Browne resumed the Chair.

Cheque No. 100621 - D Hilbourne, RFOs salary (November)	£96.00
Cheque No. 100622 - SSALC, Clerk's networking day.	£72.00
Cheque No. 100623 - SSALC, Chair's networking day.	£72.00
Cheque No. 100624 - SSALC, Cllr, planning day.	£30.00
Cheque No. 100625 - Spoilt.	-
Cheque No. 100626 - Glasdon UK Ltd, Memorial seat.	£520.15
Cheque No. 100627 - British Legion, donation under s137.	£50.00

A resolution for approval is sought for past and present issue of Cheques.

Cheques proposed by Councillor Peacock and seconded by Councillor Funnell.

6.3 Precept, requests for expenditure

David Hilbourne noted that his outline budget provides for normal expected parish expenditure but will need to include any items which Councillors agree that provision should be made for. This will provide for any special projects or donations that the Council wishes to make. The RFO went through the existing budget and areas for change.

The RFO has received a number of requests for funding from outside bodies which has been circulated to Councillors for consideration. Councillors also need to consider if they wish to set aside money for a joint neighbourhood plan, possibly with Etchingham.

The Chair, Graham Browne, has arranged for a Precept working party meeting in the Hall on Tuesday the 12th January to set the precept for the next financial year which will be formally approved at the next meeting.

7.0 PLAYING FIELDS

Unable to get second quote for disabled access to Drewetts Field so **unanimously resolved to go with the existing quote**, to be done at the same time as the siting of the memorial bench, weather permitting. New dog sign (dog fouling) to be welded to gate at entrance of Drewetts Field to prevent removal.

7.1 Update on repairs to Lodge Field

No report at the current time.

7.2 New access road into Stage Field

Councillor Browne reported that he felt a new access road with better visibility was needed for Stage field. He has spoken informally to Graham Burgess of RDC who does not see any problem with this as any improvement would be good. Further action to be taken to look into this proposal.

8.0 Footpaths, Transport & Roads

Councillor Johnson has been walking the Parish footpaths and noting which ones need cutting back. Many have missing waymarkers which Councillor Johnson will replace if the Council can get the right signs. Clerk to contact the Rights of Way Team at ESCC to see if they can supply.

Councillor Funnell noted that there is a serious problem with cars parking around the entrance to McMichael's Way which are impeding traffic moment near the busy A21 junction. Clerk to report.

Councillor Johnson noted loose and missing kerb stones in and near Great Oak. To get more details for the Clerk to report. Councillor Barnes to be copied in.

Councillor Harrison reported that the manhole cover in the pavement outside the School has finally be satisfactorily repaired.

Concern expressed about the condition of the red telephone box on the A21 outside the Pigeon House. To be put on the next agenda.

8.1 Footpath 23 (off London Road by Jesses)

Councillor Barnes has had a meeting with Andrew Le Gresley and Karl Taylor. Both denied that they or any of their team had spoken to the police about the recent incident concerning a local resident which he thought was creditable. Sussex Police to be contacted about exactly who they did speak to.

Andrew Le Gresley is certain the Parish Council is wrong about the line of the footpath but ESCC have agreed to fund a third party to arbitrate on this matter. This could be Kent County Council.

Councillor Barnes feels the Council should continue to proceed with claim on existing line and look at setting a January meeting under strengthening local relations procedure to which he thinks Karl Taylor and Andrew Le Gresley should be invited.

Claire Bennet is gathering more information to support the parish claim and has viewed the Definitive Map and written statement which is inconclusive as the written statement is just coordinates. The map was last update in March 2013. Councillor Barnes thinks the name of the surveyor and date should be asked for.

The landowner has now put up CCTV in the grounds.

Councillor Barnes suggested that the Chief Constable should be contacted to find out exactly where Rother police got their information from and concerned that the local resident was pressured into accepting a caution by the legal representative. Mark Austin is the named PC but no other information is available. Resident was told that ESCC was spoken to as to whether this was public or private land and feels that there could have been an abuse of public office. Councillor Barnes feels there should be a retraction of the caution and formal apology as the area is in dispute.

9.0 Notices and Correspondence:-

Correspondence previously circulated via email

Councillor Browne noted that Hurst Green had raised £2155 for the poppy appeal and wished to pass grateful thanks to all those who gave their time and the support from the village,

9.1 Urgent issues requiring attention

No urgent issues.

10.00 Items for the next agenda:-

Precept

12.0 Date and time of next Meeting:-

The next meeting is on Tuesday 26th January 2016 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 8.00pm with public consultation from 7.30pm. Working Party meeting 12th January at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Distribution of Minutes: -

All Parish councillors.

Parish Council Noticeboard.

ESCC Councillor J. Barnes.

RDC Councillor S. Prochak.

Signed

Chairman

Dated