

## HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held remotely on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 starting at 8.0 0pm

**Present:-** Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor Duddridge, Councillor Hampton, , Councillor Janes, Councillor Johnson, Councillor Kenchington (*from 20.15pm*) Councillor Price, Councillor Wright (*from 20.27pm*) County Councillor John Barnes and District Councillor Mary Barnes.

The Clerk was in attendance along with two members of the public.

### 1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: -

Councillor Johnson (*working*) and the RFO, Anita Emery (*at another meeting as clerk*)

### 2.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

#### 2.1 Election of Chairperson and signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillor Browne was nominated by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Hampton.

This was **unanimously approved** and Councillor Browne will sign the Acceptance of Office at the next meeting.

#### 2.2 Election of Vice Chairperson and signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillor Janes was nominated by Councillor Browne and seconded by Councillor Duddridge.

This was **unanimously approved** and Councillor Janes will sign the Acceptance of Office at the next meeting.

### 3.0 ELECTION OF COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

#### a) Playing Fields,

i) *Stage Field*, Councillor Browne expressed a wish to continue to work on the Stage Field project along with Councillor Duddridge and they were **unanimously approved**.

ii) *Lodge Field*, Councillor Johnson agreed prior to the meeting to represent Lodge Field and this was **unanimously approved**.

iii) *Drewetts Field*, Councillor Kenchington agreed to represent Drewetts Field and this was **unanimously approved**

#### b) Footpaths & Roads

Councillor Hampton agreed to represent Roads with Councillor Browne joint working on the speed camera project and Councillor Johnson indicated prior to the meeting that he would continue his work on Footpaths. This was **unanimously approved**.

#### c) Community Representatives

Councillor Price agreed to take on this role. This was **unanimously approved**.

#### d) Representatives to Rother Association of Local Councils

Councillor Hampton and Councillor Janes agreed to take on this role.

This was **unanimously approved**.

#### e) Representatives to East Sussex ALC Ltd (2)

Not appointed.

#### f) Tree Warden

Councillor Wright agreed to continue with this role as he has rec'd training in this area. This was **unanimously approved**.

#### g) Neighbourhood Plan Representative

Councillor Brown agreed to continue with this role. This was **unanimously approved**.

### 4.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: -

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the remote meeting held on Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Councillor Brown clarified that agenda item 7.2, RR/2021/457/P - Bexhurst Oast, that he was an immediate neighbour rather than well known to the applicant.

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

**5.0 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 rec'd..

**5.1 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.

**6.0 COMMUNITY SHOP: -**

Councillor Janes reported that he has started to package up and clear the site of his belongings.

**6.1 To consider any motions pertaining to the lease** (Councillor Browne) gave the report.

Councillor Browne reported on the current situation with the Council now waiting to hear back from Thomas Pakenham re his approval or not of the prospective lessees before any more progress can be made.

**7.0 CLERK'S UPDATE**

Councillor Hampton asked about the progress re the defib as concerned it may stop working.

Clerk has been assured that the current defib is up to standard but the issue is that when it does need replacing the spares are no longer available. Clerk has had problems in contacting Gary Spray re the need or not for a maintenance contract for a new defib. Councillor Wright offered to speak to him re this issue.

**7.1 Urgent issues requiring attention**

Neither the Clerk or RFO have been able to get to grips with populating the new parish website and training needs have been identified in this area.

The RFO suggested that the Council should use the person that updates Plumpton's website who is experienced in this. The Clerk thought that this would be an excellent idea for the short term in order to get everything that is essential onto the site as quickly as possible before the Clerk and RFO get trained up to do it themselves.

**This was unanimously agreed.**

Councillor Brown gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan and the updated masterplan which is over 100 pages long but needs to be reviewed by all.

After several Neighbourhood Plan queries and a complaint by a local resident Councillor Brown has prepared a statement which he read out to the Council and asked if they wished to support or not support the statement as below,

*"Hurst Green Parish Council prides itself in being a champion of openness and transparency, and as caring local council responsive to the needs of its residents. The Parish Council has welcomed the hundreds of helpful comments, as part of various Neighbourhood Plan consultations and surveys. In-keeping with other Councils, the Council has published all comments and feedback received as part of the evidence base, required to be gathered as part of the process of producing a neighbourhood plan.*

*To comply with the appropriate obligations, surveys on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan are usually distributed and carried out anonymously. Surveys are promoted on social media, on the Council's websites, via door-to-door leaflets, and by placing articles within the local 'The Hurst' magazine.*

*Following a complaint from a local business owner concerning a resident's comment regarding their business that was collected during an anonymous survey. The Parish Council has taken a pragmatic view that in this case that the resident's comments should be deleted from the record; as on balance the resident's right to politely express their opinion of a business that is open to the public, over the business owner's right to trade."*

**This was unanimously supported by the Council**

Councillor Browne expressed concern over the possible use of the old shed to the rear of the old Community Shop by a homeless person and wants the shed removed in the presence of the police in case of conflict.

7.2 Councillors questions, none rec'd

## **8.0 FINANCE:-.**

8.1 To discuss/adopt Risk Assessment for internal and external auditor

The Risk Assessment had been prepared by the RFO, Anita Emery and emailed out to Councilors prior to the meeting.

**This was unanimously adopted.**

## **9.0 STANDING ORDERS, adoption of Standing Orders**

The Clerk downloaded and personalised the latest NALC model Standing Orders for Hurst Green before emailing them out to all Councillors.

**These were unanimously adopted.**

9.1 Adoption of Financial Regulations

The RFO, Anita Emery downloaded and personalised the latest NALC model Financial Regulations for Hurst Green and emailed them out to Councilors prior to the meeting.

**These were unanimously adopted.**

## **9.00 Items for the next agenda**

Neighbourhood Plan.

Other items to be emailed to Clerk as necessary.

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

Date to be decided at a later date. Clerk to check for main hall availability.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.04pm.

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

28<sup>th</sup> June 2021