

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th June 2022 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 8.00pm after public consultation at 7.45pm.

Present:- Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Duddridge, Councillor Hampton, Councillor Janes, Councillor Price and County Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green
The Clerk was in attendance along with twelve members of the public.

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: -

Councillor Brown, Councillor Johnson, Councillor Kenchington, Councillor Wright, District Councillor Barnes and the RFO Anita Emery. The reason for absences was approved by the Council.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: -

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the second meeting held on Tuesday 26th April 2022 and the minutes of the AGM held on the 31st May 2022.
Minutes proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Janes.

Prior to the approval of the minutes, and without entering into discussion, reflecting on the Council's meeting of 31st May 2022, the Chair asked the Clerk to send a letter of apology to a member of the public, and reminded all Councillors that they were bound by the Council's Code of Conduct, and in cases of potential misconduct, that Councillors could be reported to the Monitoring Officer at Rother District Council.

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.*

Councillor Browne declared an interest in agenda item 5.2, the old Community Shop, as a tenant of the owner.

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 FINANCE/RFO Report

In the absence of the RFO, Anita Emery the Clerk gave her report.

4.1 To approve the bank reconciliation

The Council **were unable to approve this** due to a query on one of the items.
RFO to be consulted.

4.2 To approve expenses and payments as itemised on the schedule

The RFO asked for it to be minuted that the expenditure item of £12.15 to A Brown HGPC NP expenses is to cover printing costs to support resident requests for materials in alternative formats. Budget income line 1150 £1143 contains grant income for the new defib from Arnold Clark of £1000 and crowd funding of £143. There is a contra payment allocated to budget line 4222 Defib (grant funded)

With the exception of one payment of £300 (authorized under 4.1 of the financial regs) whilst waiting for all the paperwork the expenses and payments as itemised was proposed for payment by Councillor Janes and seconded by Councillor Price.

Unanimously supported.

5.0 COMMUNITY Activities and reports.

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

In his absence Councillor Brown provided a written report which the Clerk circulated to all Councillors and the Chair read it out to all present.

Councillor Brown put three questions to the Council as listed below,

1. Does the Parish Council agree with the Steering Group's recommendation, that subject to a successful review meeting of the draft neighbourhood plan with Council, and the incorporation of any changes, to proceed in principle with the Regulation 14 consultation?

This was unanimously agreed in principle.

2. Does the Parish Council agree with the Steering Group's recommendation to run the Regulation 14 consultation between the 11th July 2022 and the 22nd August 2022 (6 weeks).

This was unanimously agreed in principle although concern expressed that the period may be too short.

3. Following its decision to suspend activities relating to this, does the Parish Council wish the Community Shop and Grounds to form part of the proposed list of Local Green Spaces that are included in the draft neighbourhood plan?

The Council unanimously agreed not to include these in the proposed list of Local Green Spaces.

5.2 Old Community Shop Building. – working party report

In his absence Councillor Brown supplied a written statement, printed and handed out by the Clerk to Councillors present re latest position with Hand of Hope.

Councillor Brown posed three questions: -

1. In accordance with Standing Orders, appointing any additional members if required to the working party.
Councillor Price and three members of the public expressed a wish to join the working party. Clerk to pass on contact information to Councillor Brown.
2. Extending the terms of reference for the working party that it proposes to Councillors and in conjunction with the Chair, arrangements for a suitable date for an EGM to be held to determine the future of the former community shop building.
20th July was agreed as a suitable date (Clerk's note that subsequently meeting moved to September, date to be decided).
3. In accordance with Standing Order 10, part a viii, raise any associated motions to cover any written papers deemed necessary to support the EGM, including financial paper from the Council's RFO that outlines the Council's position in relation to any debts and the outstanding Public Works Loan and details on whether or not it would be possible to repay this early and the terms for doing so.
RFO to be consulted.

5.3 Climate Change Action

Motion, "That Hurst Green Parish Council will: 1. Declare a 'climate emergency'. 2. Call on Rother District Council to provide Parish Councils with advice, resources and adequate staff expertise to enable the assessment of our emissions and the co-creation of a carbon neutral action plan for Hurst Green Parish Council. 3. Pledge to make the activities of Hurst Green Parish Council carbon neutral by January 2023. 4. Using the resources and land owned by the Council, pledge to create an environmental benefit by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, making Hurst Green Parish Council climate positive by 2025. 5. Call on Rother District Council to reaffirm their commitment to being carbon neutral by 2030. 6. Agree to work with local people and groups and with local authority organisations such as neighbouring town and parish Councils to determine and implement relevant leading practices. 6. Agree to report to residents on the actions the Council has taken to address this emergency by December 2022, and to 7) Instruct the Clerk to place this issue on Parish Council agendas at least twice a year." (Cllr. Brown)

In Councillor Brown's absence Councillor Janes proposed this motion and it was seconded by Councillor Browne. **Majority decision to support this with one abstention.**

5.4 Report on Platinum Jubilee celebrations held in the Village

The Chair gave the report.

Councillor Janes proposed that the Council should thank the organisers on their very successful event. This was seconded by Councillor Browne and **unanimously supported.**

Clerk to email.

5.5 District and County Councillors reports

Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green gave her report which had been distributed by email prior to the meeting.

5.6 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report which had been emailed to Councillors prior to the meeting.

5.7 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Nothing more to note, covered in Clerk's report.

5.8 Urgent issues requiring attention

Councillor Browne reported that the area surrounding the bus shelter on the A21 was very overgrown and needs cutting back. Clerk to contact National Highways.

Clerk reported that Stage Field needed to be cut. **This was agreed.**

6.0 TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS

A resident expressed concern re the number of old roadwork signs left around the Village after the roadworks had been completed.

Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green will contact ESCC re the ones on the A265 and the Clerk will contact National Highways re the ones on the A21.

7.0 PLANNING

APPEALS - **RR/2021/1821/O** – Silverhill Pump House business Unit. **Appealed**

Bantham Farm (Ticehurst) Two appeals lodged.

7.1 RDC Planning decisions

RR/2021/2994/P - Haydon Lodge - Land At, Silverhill, Hurst Green TN19 7QB. **Refused**

7.2 Planning applications

None rec'd.

8.0 PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS

8.1 Lodge Field, regeneration progress report.

Survey forms have been printed and are being distributed around the Village.

The Clerk along with the Chair will do the count and eligibility check.

8.2 Stage Field, condition report

Reported under 5.8

9.00 Items for the next agenda

Neighbourhood Plan.

Old community shop building.

Other items to be emailed to Clerk as necessary.

10.0 Date and time of next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th July 2022 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 8.00pm with public consultation from 7.45pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Distribution of Minutes: -

All Parish Councillors

Parish Council Noticeboard

Parish Council Website

ESCC Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green

RDC Councillor M Barnes.

Signed

Cllr. Graham Browne

Dated

26th July 2022