

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th October 2022 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 8.00pm after public consultation.

Present:- Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor Duddridge, Councillor Hampton, Councillor Janes, Councillor Johnson, Councillor Kenchington, Councillor Price, Councillor Wright and District Councillor Barnes.

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

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: -

County Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green and the RFO Anita Emery.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: -

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th September 2022.

Minutes proposed by Councillor Brown 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.*

Councillor Browne declared an interest in agenda item 5.2 as a tenant of the site 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

The RFO, Anita Emery had emailed the financial report to Councillors prior to the meeting

4.1 To approve the bank reconciliation

Bank reconciliation was emailed to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

This was unanimously approved.

4.2 To approve expenses and payments as itemised on the schedule

Expenses and payments schedule was emailed to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Janes and seconded by Councillor Johnson.

This was unanimously approved.

5.0 COMMUNITY Activities and reports.

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

Councillor Brown gave the report which had been distributed before the meeting.

Councillor Brown asked the Council to consider the motion,

That this council for reasons of complying with the terms of its grant award, will following all valid expenditure under grant NPG-11380, instruct the RFO to return in short order any unspent sum to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Browne.

This was unanimously approved.

The Chair, Graham Browne declared an interest in the next agenda item and left the Meeting. The Vice-Chair Councillor Janes took the Chair for this agenda item.

5.2 Old Community Shop Building

Motion - *That this Council, for the purposes of understanding its obligations, will acquire quotes and appoint a suitably qualified organisation or individual to undertake a building condition survey of the former community building, that will at a minimum:*
i) assess and report on the condition of the building, ii) provide estimates for the value of any required remediation works and any costs relating to any shortfall in tenancy repair, and iii) provide an assessment of the value of any improvement works undertaken by the Council. (Cllr. Brown).

Councillor Brown proposed the motion, the supporting paper having been emailed out to Councillors prior to the meeting. Councillor Wright seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

The Clerk will obtain quotes for survey.

Councillor Browne returned to the meeting and took the chair.

5.3 Potential sites for Defibrillators

The Council asked the Clerk to confirm who would actually own the defibrillators due to insurance implications and ongoing responsibilities.

Councillor Browne will re contact Ashdene Garage as a potential site and Councillor Wright will investigate obtaining a second BT box to potentially be sited at the end of Coronation Gardens.

5.4 District and County Councillors reports

Councillor Barnes gave her report.

Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green had emailed her report to Councillors prior to the meeting.

5.5 Clerk's report

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

The Council asked the Clerk to clarify the legal position re the lack of fixed 30mph speed signs to the south of the school on the A21.

5.6 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Resident's questions to be answered via email.

Nothing more to report.

5.7 Urgent issues requiring attention

None reported.

6.0 **COUNCIL ISSUES**

Motion - *That this Council for reasons of increasing public attendance, improving the alertness of Councillors, and to regularise meeting start times with other councils within Rother District, and to avoid meetings regularly extending past 10pm, shall with immediate effect change the start time of its meetings from 8pm to 7.45pm, with public consultation from 7.30pm (Cllr. Brown)*

The Chair moved to amend the motion that meetings should end by 9.30pm.

This was **unanimously agreed**.

Amended motion, *That this Council for reasons of increasing public attendance, improving the alertness of Councillors, and to regularise meeting start times with other councils within Rother District, and to avoid meetings regularly extending past 10pm, shall with immediate effect change the start time of its meetings from 8pm to 7.45pm, with public consultation from 7.30pm and should end by 9.30pm.*

Motion proposed by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Browne.

Unanimously supported.

6.1 Motion - *That this Council, following its declaration of a Climate Emergency, shall form a sub-committee to consider and report to Council on how to take forward its actions and commitments (Cllr. Brown).*

Motion proposed by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Browne.

Unanimously supported.

Councillor Brown will look into how to set up a sub-committee to carry out this work.

6.2 To consider working with the Village Hall on work to upgrade the front Garden (Cllr. Wright).
Councillor Wright asked for this item to be postponed until a supporting paper had been prepared.

7.0 TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS

No new issues to report.

8.0 PLANNING

The Council agreed to respond to the Bantham Farm appeal (*parish of Ticehurst*) to reiterate the Council's opposition to development on this site.

8.1 RDC Planning decisions

None rec'd.

9.0 PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS

The Chair updated the council re the damaged post outside the entrance to Lodge Field which needs replacing and asked councillors if they supported the purchase of a post for this purpose.

This was **unanimously supported.**

Councillor Janes reported on the Lodge Field redevelopment project. Draft precept now needed. Councillor Browne will supply contact details of the RDC Accessibility Officer

9.1 Stage Field, to approve £300 cost to remove fly tipped rubbish

This was **unanimously supported.**

10.00 Items for the next agenda

Neighbourhood Plan.

Standing Orders

Other items to be emailed to Clerk as necessary.

11.0 Date and time of next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th November 2022 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.02pm.

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

29th November 2022