

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm after public consultation.

Present:- Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor Cloves, Councillor Callan, Councillor French, Councillor Pakenham and Councillor Price.

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

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: -

District Councillor Barnes, District Councillor Killeen, County Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green and the RFO Anita Emery.

2.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS:-

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

Councillor Browne was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Pakenham. This was **unanimously supported by the Council**.

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

Councillor French was proposed by Councillor Callan and seconded by Councillor Brown. Councillor Price was proposed by Councillor Browne and seconded by Councillor Pakenham. Councillor French was **elected by majority decision**.

3.0 Election of Committees and Representatives

a) Playing Fields, i) Stage Field, ii) Lodge Field, ii) Drewetts Field

Councillor Browne, Councillor Cloves and Councillor Callan agreed to cover Stage Field.

All Councillors agreed to cover Lodge Field.

Councillor Cloves and Councillor French will cover Drewetts Field.

b) Footpaths & Roads

Councillor Callan and Councillor French agreed to cover this.

c) Community Representatives

Councillor Price and Councillor Cloves agreed to act as Community representatives.

d) Representative to Rother Association of Local Councils

Councillor Price agreed to be the representative for RALC.

e) Representatives to East Sussex ALC (2)

Councillor Price and Councillor Pakenham agreed to be the ESALC representatives.

f) Tree Warden

To be assigned at a future date.

g) Neighbourhood Plan representative

Councillor Brown and Councillor Browne agreed to be the Neighbourhood Plan representatives With Councillors Callan, Cloves, French and Pakenham in supportive roles.

h) Finance Committee

Councillors Browne, Callan and Pakenham appointed to this committee.

4.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: -

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th April 2023.

Minutes proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Brown.

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.*

Councillor Browne declared an interest in agenda item 9.2, RR/2023/684/P as he knows the applicant.

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 FINANCE/RFO Report

In the RFOs absence the Clerk gave the pre prepared report as supplied by the RFO and emailed to councillors prior to the meeting.

6.1 To note internal auditors report

Noted by Council and Councillor French congratulated the Clerk and RFO on the excellent report.

6.2 To approve bank reconciliation and corresponding bank statements

Proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor French. **Unanimously supported.**

6.3 To approve the annual governance statement to 31.3.2023

Proposed by Councillor Cloves and seconded by Councillor Callan. **Unanimously supported.**

6.4 To approve the annual accounting statement to 31.3.2023

Proposed by Councillor Cloves and seconded by Councillor Callan. **Unanimously supported.**

6.5 To approve expenses and payments as itemised on the schedule

Subject to alteration of one invoice incorrectly dated, proposed by Councillor Cloves and seconded by Councillor French. **Unanimously supported**

6.6 To approve the fixed asset register

It was resolved to **unanimously approve** the register.

7.0 COMMUNITY Activities and reports.

7.1 Neighbourhood Plan, progress report (Cllr. Brown)

The report was given by Councillor Brown.

Councillor Brown suggested a group meeting to give new councilors an overview of the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Brown to email out suggested dates.

It was unanimously approved to pay for the printing of hard copies of the neighbourhood plan documents needed for the meeting.

7.2 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Concern expressed by local resident re parking and safety issues on Foundry Close due to the new development. Clerk to set up meeting with Southern Homes and Greymoor.

7.3 Urgent issues requiring attention

Soil dumping at Sweethayes Farm has resumed. To be monitored.

8.0 TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS

Nothing to report.

9.0 PLANNING

9.1 RDC Planning decisions

RR/2023/546/P - Boundary Farm House, London Road, Hurst Green TN19 7QY. Variation of condition 2 imposed on RR/2016/2933/P to allow changes to the replacement dwelling's design.

Approved.

9.2 Planning applications

Councillor Browne declared an interest in application **RR/2023/684/P**

as he has done work for and knows the applicant and therefore did not take part in the discussion or vote.

RR/2023/684/P – Orchard Farm - Cafe, London Road, Hurst Green TN19 7QS. Change of use of land for open seasonal storage & display materials.

More information needed to make informed decision.

10.0 **PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS**

It was noted that Bob Janes has stood down from the working party and the Chair thanked him for his tremendous contribution to the project.

10.1 Lodge Field, motions,

- a) *'To award the tender for the supply of a new playground installation subject to the successful granting of the Public Works Loan'*

The Council agreed that no company met the current criteria and that two should be notified that they were unsuccessful whilst the third should be looked into further.

- b) To clarify and reword the approval of the motion passed on the 27th September 2022, agenda item 10.1 Lodge Field

Motion - *"This council resolves to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up Housing and Communities to apply for a PWLB loan of £70,000 over the borrowing term of 20 years for the replacement of children's play equipment in Lodge Field, Hurst Green. The annual loan repayments will come to around £ 6446*. It is also intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments by approximately 11% which is the equivalent of an additional £0.17 a week on a band D property a move supported by the residents, confirmed by a village survey. It should be noted that these are current calculations and could be subject to slight change given the volatile interest rates.*

from, 'This was unanimously supported' to 'The Council unanimously resolved to support this resolution'.

It was resolved to change the re wording.

The Chair asked all the public in attendance to leave the meeting for the next agenda item due to the need for confidentiality.

11.0 **CLOSED SESSION**, Press and public excluded due to confidentiality Co-option to the Council to fill the two outstanding vacancies.

Minuted separately.

12.0 **Date and time of next Meeting**

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th June 2023 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.40pm.

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

27th June 2023

