

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th April 2023 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm after public consultation.

Present:- Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor Hampton, Councillor Janes, Councillor Johnson, Councillor Price, Councillor Wright (*from 8.25pm*) and District Councillor Barnes.

The Clerk and the RFO, Anita Emery were in attendance along with six members of the public.

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: -

Councillor Duddridge, Councillor Kenchington, (*both approved by the Council*) and County Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: -

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th March 2023.

Minutes proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Hampton.

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.*

None received.

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 gave the financial report.

The RFO reported that the internal Audit had been carried out earlier in the day.

4.1 To approve expenses and payments for April as itemised on the schedule

Proposed by Councillor Janes and seconded by Councillor Price.

This was **unanimously approved** by the Council.

4.2 To approve the bank reconciliation

Proposed by Councillor Janes and seconded by Councillor Price.

This was **unanimously approved** by the Council.

4.3 To reconsider grant request for upkeep of the churchyard (Cllr. Browne)

A presentation was made before the meeting detailing the additional costs incurred for the upkeep of the churchyard. Councillor Browne proposed that another £500 grant should be given in addition to the £1,000 already agreed. This was seconded by Councillor Janes.

The Council **unanimously resolved to support this grant** under LGA1972, s 215.

The Chair moved agenda item 8.0 up the agenda to discuss before the RFO left the meeting.

8.0 PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS

The Council has received an email from RDC asking if the Council is happy for Stage Field to be included in a biodiversity audit it has commissioned which will be at no cost to the Council.

The Council agreed to this.

Councillor Browne offered to cut the whole of Stage Field early in the year for hay if the Council was happy for him to do this rather than just cut a pathway around the field.

This was unanimously agreed.

8.1 Lodge Field regeneration project – update.

The RFO has had a reply from the PWLB application requesting more information. A remote meeting to be set up to discuss the responses needed.

The Clerk has had a query from ROSPA re the annual playground inspection and suggests that the Council should wait to see if the new playground is going to be installed on schedule or not to reduce unnecessary expenditure. The last inspection was done in July 2022. The Council agreed that the inspection could be put on hold.

8.2 To consider quotes for replacement fence in Lodge Field

Two quotes have been rec'd for replacing the upper part of the fence in the small children's play area with a new paling fence. The Council **unanimously agreed** to accept the lowest quote of £565 the other being for £779.34.

8.3 Grass cutting maintenance in Lodge Field

The contractor appointed by the Council to carry out grass cutting has ceased trading but the person employed to do the cutting has taken over this role for the same cost of £95 a cut and has already carried out 2 cuts. The Chair proposed that the Council should continue with this arrangement until later in the year when new tenders would be considered. This was **unanimously agreed** by the Council.

Councillor Wright joined the meeting.

8.4 To consider cost of mole removal in Drewetts Field

The Chair having checked the field when mowing, did not find much evidence of mole activity. The Council agreed to postpone any mole treatment at the current time.

The RFO left the meeting at 8.30pm.

5.0 COMMUNITY Activities and reports.

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

Councillor Brown gave the report along with a supporting paper which had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Councillor Brown asked the Council to,

a. approve the Regulation 14 representation responses first circulated 21st of February 2023, and also reviewed subsequently at the working group on the 20th April 2023 .

This was **unanimously approved** by the Council.

b. following the receipt of all valid expenditure under grant NPG-13109, for reasons of complying with the terms of its grant award from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, instruct the RFO to return any unspent sum to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

This was **unanimously approved** by the Council.

c. to create a Housing and Planning advisory committee (as recommended within the draft neighbourhood plan), with the responsibility for advising and recommending to the Council, proposed responses to planning applications, and for monitoring of the Neighbourhood Plan.

To be discussed at a future meeting.

5.2 Old Community Shop Building- update

Another window at the back of the building which had been boarded up has had the boarding removed. The Council **unanimously agreed** that the Clerk should action and get Croft Glass in to facilitate a repair. The Clerk will action the repair under emergency funding.

Unanimously agreed.

5.3 Granting of the Honorary Freedom of the Parish to local resident

To be moved to the end of the agenda to be discussed in a closed session due to confidentiality.

5.4 RDC PSPO Dog Control Consultation

The Council agreed that this still applies to Lodge Field. RDC to be notified.

5.5 District and County Councillors reports

Councillor Barnes had nothing to report.

No report rec'd from County Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green.

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

To be moved to the end of the agenda to be discussed in a closed session due to confidentiality.

5.8 Urgent issues requiring attention

Councillor Johnson will provide details of the local resident who is voluntarily picking up litter in the village for the Clerk to send a 'thank you' letter.

Councillor Brown suggested an informal meeting for new Councillors on the 9th May in the Village Hall.

6.0 **TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS**

Councillor Johnson expressed concern re surface of the road approaching the pedestrian crossing on the A265 that needs attention. The Clerk noted that this had been reported to ESCC as a concern due to the proximity of the crossing.

7.0 **PLANNING**

7.1 RDC Planning decisions

RR/2022/2923/L – 56 London Road, Sandstones, Hurst Green. TN19 7PN. Replacement of 6 No. Windows to side and rear elevations. **Granted.**

7.2 Planning Applications

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. **Not supported.**

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**

The next Council meeting will be the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Tuesday 23rd May.

The Chair asked the public to leave the room in order to discuss items of a confidential nature on the agenda. Minuted separately.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.16pm.

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 16th May 2023