

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th June 2023 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm after public consultation.

Present:- Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Cloves, Councillor Callan, Councillor Evans, Councillor French, Councillor Levine, Councillor Pakenham, Councillor Price and County Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green.

The Clerk was in attendance along with the RFO Anita Emery and two members of the public.

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: -

Councillor Brown, District Councillor Barnes and District Councillor Killeen.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: -

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 and the Extraordinary meeting held on the 6th June 2023. Minutes proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Cloves.

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 Cloves declared an interest in agenda items 4.4, 4.5 and 9.1 as a committee member of the Village Hall and Fete.

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 report which had been emailed to councillors prior to the meeting.

4.1 To approve expenses and payments for June as itemised on the schedule
Proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Callan.

Unanimously supported.

4.2 To approve bank reconciliation

Proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Callan.

Unanimously supported.

4.3 To re-adopt the Financial Regulations

It was **resolved** to re-adopt the Financial Regulations

Councillor Cloves declared an interest in the next two agenda items as a member of the Village Hall and Fete committees and did not take part in the vote.

4.4 To consider grant request of £1,000 for the Village Hall under s137 LGA 72
It was **resolved** to support this application.

4.5 To consider grant request of £500 for the Village Fete under s137 LGA 72
It was **resolved** to support this application.

4.6 To confirm Mulberry & Co as internal auditor for 2023-2024

This was noted and confirmed.

4.7 To consider payment to RDC re rates on old community shop

It was **resolved** that the RFO would contact the Valuation Office Agency and try another

Check and Challenge over the designation of the business in an attempt to downgrade it to small business rates. It was **resolved** to hold off payment until after this challenge. It was agreed that legal advice should be considered re the likelihood of RDC taking legal action to recover the outstanding rates.

5.0 COMMUNITY Activities and reports.

5.1 Neighbourhood Plan, progress report (Cllr. Brown)

In Councillor Brown's absence no report was available.

5.2 Motion to consider use of planters or direct planting along road verges to enhance the village (Cllr. Cloves)

Proposed by Councillor Cloves and seconded by Councillor Evans.

It was **resolved** to support this motion.

5.3 RDC Dog Control in Rother Consultation

At the Chair's request County Councillor Kirby-Green updated the Council on this.

Dog Control Orders would ban dogs from cricket and football areas such as Drewetts Field when in use.

It was noted that as Trustees of Drewetts Field the Parish Council could look to overturn the order if passed.

The Council agreed that they would not support this order. Clerk to respond as such and will produce a poster to alert the public to the consultation.

5.4 District and County Councillors reports

County Councillor Kirby-Green gave her report which had been emailed to Councillors.

5.5 Clerk's report

Report emailed to Councillors along with briefing notes prior to the meeting.

5.6 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Covered in Clerk's report.

5.7 Urgent issues requiring attention

Councillor Cloves has been approached by residents re a village tourist trek around the village.

A supporting paper was emailed out before the meeting and he asked for the Council's support.

The Council thought this was an excellent idea and fully supported the venture.

6.0 TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS

Councillor Callan reported on potholes along Burgh Hill which either he or the Clerk will report.

7.0 PLANNING

7.1 RDC Planning decisions

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

7.2 Planning applications

Councillor Browne declared an interest in applications RR/2023/1065//P and RR/2023/565/P as he has done work for and knows the applicants and therefore did not take part in the discussion or vote.

RR/2023/1065/P - High View, Haremere Hill, Hurst Green TN19 7QL. Erection of infill extensions and change of roof material. **General comment.**

RR/2023/1056/P - Coppins, Burgh Hill, Hurst Green TN19 7PE. Proposed first floor side extension. **Not supported.**

RR/2023/565/P - Merriments Barn, Merriments Lane, Hurst Green TN19 7RQ. Installation of ground mounted solar array in field south of Merriments Barn. **Not Supported.**

8.0 PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS

8.1 Lodge Field regeneration project – update

Motion, to approve appendix to Tender for the regeneration of Lodge Field play equipment. Proposed by Councillor Browne and seconded by Councillor Cloves
It was **resolved to approve** this motion.

8.2 To consider quotes for Risk Assessment tree survey in Drewetts, Lodge and Stage Fields

Two quotes have been rec'd.

It was **resolved by a majority decision** to accept the higher quote of £900 from Curley Consultants due to the more extensive survey being offered.

9.0 PARISH COUNCILS ISSUES

9.1 Proposal to set up committees

Councillors Brown, Callan and French had proposed that Councillors give consideration to passing the motions below:

1. "That this Council, for reasons of good governance, effectiveness, and general expediency of its monthly meetings, will create a new standing committee, 'Community Engagement Committee' with immediate effect and shall use the proposed Terms of Reference, and if this motion is so passed shall make the existing Local Resilience Working Group, an associated sub-committee of this committee."

2. "That this Council, for reasons of good governance, effectiveness, and general expediency of its monthly meetings, will rename the existing Finance Committee to be the 'Finance, Admin & Governance Committee'.

3. "That this Council, for reasons of good governance, will create a new Finance, Admin & Governance sub-committee, the "Personnel Sub-Committee".

4. "That this Council, for reasons of good governance, effectiveness, and general expediency of its monthly meetings, will create a new standing committee, 'Transport, Highways, Cycleways & Footpaths Committee' with immediate effect, and shall use the proposed Terms of Reference."

5. "That this Council, for reasons of good governance, effectiveness, and general expediency of its monthly meetings, will create a new standing committee, 'Planning & Environment Committee' with immediate effect and shall use the proposed Terms of Reference,, and if so passed shall make the existing Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, and the existing Climate Change Working Group, associated sub-committees of this committee."

6. "That this Council, for reasons of good governance, effectiveness, and general expediency of its monthly meetings, will create a new standing committee, 'Recreation, Estates & Facilities Management Committee' with immediate effect and shall use the proposed Terms of Reference, and if so passed shall make the existing working groups: the Former Community Shop Working Group, the Burgh Wood Working Group, the Playground Regeneration Working Group, Stage Field Working Group, associated sub-committees of this committee. The role of Tree Warden will also be associated to this committee."

7. "That this Council, for reasons of good governance, will create a new standing committee, 'Strategic Committee' with immediate effect and shall use the proposed Terms of Reference."

This item was discussed in Councillor Brown's absence but it was decided that more work needed to be done on this before any decisions could be made.

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

9.2 to 9.7 CLOSED SESSION press and public to be excluded for this agenda item due to Confidentiality Staffing issues

10.0 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

None received.

11.0 Date and time of next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th July 2023 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.35pm.

Distribution of Minutes: -

All Parish Councillors

Parish Council Noticeboard

Parish Council Website

ESCC Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green

RDC Councillor M Barnes.

RDC Councillor Killeen

Signed

Cllr. Graham Browne

Dated

29th August 2023