

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 31st October 2023 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 8.00pm after the Planning Committee meeting.

Present:- Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor Callan, Councillor Cloves, Councillor Evans (from 8.45pm), Councillor French, Councillor Levine, Councillor Pakenham, Councillor Price and District Councillor Barnes.

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

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - District Councillor Killeen 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 meetings held on Tuesday 26th September 2023 and Monday the 16th October 2023.

Minutes for the 26th September proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Cloves.

Minutes for the 16th October proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Levine.

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 Pakenham declared an interest in 4.5 and 5.1 as a relative of the landowner and acting agent dealing with the hand back of the shop and issues re land holding and Neighbourhood Plan.

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 out to Councillors prior to the meeting.

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

The RFO noted two additional payments, the streetlight maintenance and energy supply charge and the wildflower seed for Stage Field.

Resolution to approve proposed by Councillor Cloves and seconded by Councillor Levine.

Unanimously resolved to support this.

4.2 Resolution to approve bank statements and corresponding bank reconciliations

Resolution to approve proposed by Councillor Cloves and seconded by Councillor Callan.

Unanimously resolved to support this.

4.3 Resolution to approve allocation of payment from South East Water of £2,500 in recompense to the village of failure in water supply towards the Hurst Green Resilience Plan and in particular the purchase of a generator and related equipment to be stored at the Village Hall for community use.

Resolution to approve proposed by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Callan.

Unanimously resolved to support this.

4.4 To approve payment of outstanding rate arrears re old community shop

The amount now outstanding is £2,939.49 although Rother has added on an additional sum to this that should be the liability of the Old Community Shop Company. It was agreed that the RFO should check this before any payment and if necessary get consent from Councillors via email for payment.

Councillor Pakenham declared an interest in the next agenda item.

4.5 To consider payment of old community shop landlord's surveyor's costs of £1,250 + VAT
The lease requires the Council to pay this so the Council, on the recommendation of the Council's solicitor resolved to pay this invoice.

4.6 To set a Finance Committee meeting to consider budget recommendations for 2024-2025
It was resolved to hold a Finance Committee meeting on the 22nd November in the Village Hall at 7.00pm

4.7 Resolution – to approve return of Neighbourhood Plan under spend of £155.10 to Groundwork UK

Councillor Brown reported that he believed that this had already been agreed although the amount had not been specified.

The Council unanimously resolved to return the under spend.

5.0 COMMUNITY Activities and reports.

5.1 Neighbourhood Plan, progress report from steering group

Councillor French gave the report.

Councillor Pakenham declared an interest in the next agenda item.

- i) To reevaluate residents concerns and implications within the Neighbourhood Plan and to consider their ongoing inclusion in the Plan*

Councillor Pakenham handed out paperwork to back up his concerns and addressed the Council.

Due to the confidential nature of the item to be discussed the Chair closed the meeting to the public and they left the room along with Councillor Pakenham.

Councillor Evans joined the meeting at 8.45pm and the RFO Anita Emery left the meeting at 8.50pm.

The Council revisited the Plan and examined the concerns expressed.

District Councillor Barnes left the meeting at 9.00pm.

The Chair suspended Standing Orders and a resolution was proposed:-

'to remove the diagram which indicates aspirational footpath connections'.

This was proposed by Councillor Browne and seconded by Councillor Price.

This resolution was carried by seven votes with one abstention.

The Council felt the other areas of concern had already been addressed and would be reflected in the latest Plan.

The public and Councillor Pakenham rejoined the meeting.

5.2 District and County Councillors reports

County Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green had emailed her report to councillors in her absence.

No other reports received.

5.3 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report.

5.4 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

- i) Consultation on the Draft High Weald AONB Management Plan

Councillor Pakenham will look at this on behalf of the Council.

5.5 Urgent issues requiring attention

A resident reported issues with a flooded pavement opposite the Village Hall.

A resident expressed concern re the removal of a tree in the churchyard. The Council concluded that this was not a Council issue.

6.0 **TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS**

6.1 ESCC, urban grass cutting service for 2024, resolution to accept Option 1, Standard, Option 2, Extra cuts or Option 3, Self-delivery.

Councillor Browne proposed option 1 and was seconded by Councillor Callan.

Councillor Pakenham proposed option 2 and was seconded by Councillor Cloves.

The Council resolved to accept option 2 with a majority vote of five.

The Clerk was requested to see if the extra cost is negotiable.

6.2 Feedback from Huw Merriman's visit

Several improvements to the A21 are planned including 2 road crossings and improvements to pedestrian crossing at the junction with the A265.

Looking at the possibility of a roundabout at Coopers Corner again.

7.0 **PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS**

Councillor Callan noted that the Stage Field working party would be meeting in the Village Hall the next day, 1st November at 7.30pm for interested parties.

7.1 Lodge Field regeneration project

Resolution – to agree A Frost Design's Service Agreement and set official start date.

After discussion the Council agreed to get legal advice for the Service Agreement provided by A Frost Design as amended by the Clerk and RFO. It was resolved that if approved by our solicitor then the Council could proceed and sign the document.

7.2 *Resolution –to agree to Richard Pelham resiting the Penny-Farthing sculpture and agree new site. (Cllr. Browne)*

Councillors suggested four site options, Corner Garden, the Drinking Fountain, the School and the Village Hall. Clerk to check on the costs for each site for the next meeting.

7.3 *Resolution – to agree that this Council as Trustees of Drewett Cricket Field will continue to support and fund the upkeep and maintenance costs of the field under the LGA 72, schedule 14, para.27*

Unanimously resolved to continue to support this.

8.0 **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

To be emailed to the Clerk

9.0 **Date and time of next Meeting**

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th November 2023 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.14pm.

Distribution of Minutes: - All Parish Councillors Parish Council Noticeboard Parish Council Website ESCC Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green RDC Councillor Barnes. RDC Councillor Killeen	Signed	Cllr. Graham Browne
	Dated	28 th November 2023