

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th November 2023 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 8.00pm after the Planning Committee meeting.

Present:- Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor French, Councillor Levine, Councillor Pakenham, Councillor Price, District Councillor Barnes and County Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green. The Clerk and the RFO Anita Emery were in attendance along with four members of the public.

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Councillor Cloves, Councillor Evans and District Councillor Killeen.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: -

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday the 31st October 2023.

Minutes 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.*

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 report which had been emailed out to Councillors prior to the meeting. The RFO asked Councillors to note the increase in pay scales as per NALC's notification which is backdated.

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

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

Unanimously resolved to support.

4.2 Resolution to approve bank statements and corresponding bank reconciliations

Resolution to approve proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Price.

Unanimously resolved to support.

4.3 To note the internal audit report

Councillors deferred this item to the next meeting.

4.4 To consider the Finance committee's budget recommendation for 2024/2025

Councillor Brown expressed concern at the large increase.

Councillor Price as Chair of the Finance committee responded.

5.0 COMMUNITY Activities and reports.

5.1 Neighbourhood Plan, progress report from steering group representative

Councillor French gave the report on the Plan which was still being revised.

5.2 District and County Councillors reports

Councillor Barnes gave her report.

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

The RFO Anita Emery, left the meeting at 8.25pm.

5.3 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report.

The Council vacancy has been advertised.

5.4 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Circulated via email to councillors as received.

5.5 Urgent issues requiring attention

Councillor Brown noted the awarding of the Freedom of the Parish event would take place on the 8th December in the hall.

Councillor Cloves has requested help in laying the base for the generator on the 19th December.

6.0 **TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS**

No issues to note.

7.0 **PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS**

7.1 Lodge Field regeneration project

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

It was unanimously resolved to agree this and a start date of the 1st December was agreed.

The Service agreement was signed by the Chair and Clerk.

The RFO had reported before leaving the meeting that £59,000 had been drawn down from the PWLB for the project,

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

The Council decided that the Penny-Farthing sculpture should be sold on rather than retained.

8.0 **PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES**

8.1 Resolution, 'That this Council should, subject to the agreement of the Village Hall committee, purchase a Samsung 75 Inch CU8000 4K UHD Smart TV (2023)(or equivalent) at a cost of £856(Amazon) plus associated costs to a maximum of £400 to fitted in the Nora Osbourne (small) hall for the use of the Planning Committee' (Cllr. Pakenham)

Proposed by Councillor Pakenham and seconded by Councillor Levine.

After much discussion it was resolved to move forward with this by a majority decision, 3 for, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

8.2 Resolution - That this Council aims to work towards gaining Quality Council Status and achieving General Powers of Competence

Proposed by Councillor Browne and seconded by Councillor French.

It was **unanimously resolved to support this**,

8.3 Report from the Planning Committee

Report given by Councillor Pakenham, Chair of the Planning committee.

9.0 **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

To be emailed to the Clerk

10.0 **Date and time of next Meeting**

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 30th January 2024 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

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
Chair

Dated 30th January 2024