

## HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm after the Planning Committee meeting.

**Present:-** Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor Evans, Councillor Johnson-Cloves, Councillor French, Councillor Levine, Councillor Pakenham, Councillor Price, District Councillor Barnes, District Councillor Killeen and County Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green.

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

**1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** - No absences.

**2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** -

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> November 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 informed the Council that NALC have now produced a new model employment contract which she will send to the staff committee.

4.1 To approve the 2024/2025 precept application of £56,784 an increase of 16.65%, £1.38 per month on tax band D.

It was **resolved** by seven to one to approve the precept application figure for 2024/2025 of £56,784.

4.2 To approve December expenditure

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

**Unanimously resolved to support.**

4.3 To approve January expenditure

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

**Unanimously resolved to support.**

4.4 To approve bank reconciliations and corresponding bank statements

**Unanimously resolved to approve.**

4.5 To note the current spend versus budget to date

Noted.

4.6 To note the internal audit report

Noted.

4.7 To consider grant request for Holy Trinity churchyard upkeep

To be postponed to the next meeting.

4.8 To note the current playground expenditure and spend balance at 31.1.2024

This was noted.

**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.

Hopes to have more updates for February meeting.

## 5.2 District and County Councillors reports

Councillor Barnes gave her report. Concern expressed over person possibly living in Burgh Wood. Councillors, Browne, Levine and Pakenham will carry out a site visit along with Councillor John Barnes from Etchingham.

Councillor Killeen reported that RDCs Plan was now open for consultation and would have implications for Hurst Green's Neighbourhood Plan.

County Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green gave her report.

*The RFO Anita Emery, left the meeting.*

## 5.3 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report.

## 5.4 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Circulated via email to councillors as received.

Of note Huw Merriman's letter re visit to Breakfast Club, very impressed and wants to roll out to other parishes. To look at sending out annual letters of thanks to local residents helping the community.

## 5.5 Urgent issues requiring attention

Councillor Browne had been asked by Richard Pelham if the Council wished him to continue to tend Corner Garden. This was agreed.

Councillor Pakenham reported that the Beech Farm planning application at Sedlescombe had been resubmitted and that Hurst Green should respond, as previously, objecting to the application..

## 6.0 **TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS**

Concern re lack of dropped kerb outside the Village Hall, to be looked into.

Pothole and damaged pavement near no.11 Station Road to be reported by the Clerk.

Councillor Brown suggested that all paths should be walked by councillors and volunteers once a year to check on condition. To be put on future agenda.

## 7.0 **PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS**

### 7.1 Lodge Field regeneration project

Update from Councillor French re site visit to A Frost Design and to approve staged payment

**It was unanimously resolved to agree** the staged payment.

Councillor Brown expressed concern re vandalism of the new equipment and it was agreed that the police should be contacted to see what they suggested.

Councillor Johnson-Cloves suggested a working party should be set up to discuss the second stage of the project.

## 8.0 **PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES**

8.1 Resolution, 'That this Council should agree to take up ownership of the green space proposed in the planning application for the land near Iridge Place'. (Cllr. Browne)

The Council **unanimously resolved to take on the ownership of the green space and car park** subject to it being handed over as per plans and to an acceptable standard.

8.2 Resolution, 'That this Council should approach Rother District Council again with a view to taking over the control and running of the car park'. (Cllr. French)

Postponed to the next meeting

8.3 To consider adding the Generators to the asset register

It was **unanimously resolved** to add the generators to the asset register.

*Councillors Barnes and Killeen left the meeting at 9.50pm.*

8.4 To discuss co-option to the Council to fill vacancy

Councillor Levine provided a template poster that could be delivered to all residents.

Councillor Johnson-Cloves could arrange the printing.

To look at potential interview dates.

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 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.15pm.

Distribution of Minutes: -

All Parish Councillors

Parish Council Noticeboard

Parish Council Website

ESCC Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green

RDC Councillor Barnes.

RDC Councillor Killeen

Signed

Dated