

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th February 2024 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.55pm after public consultation at 7.45pm.

Present:- Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor Evans, 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 two members of the public.

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Councillor Johnson-Cloves.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: -

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meetings and the held on Tuesday 30th January 2024 and Friday 9th February 2024.

Due to the minutes being sent out after the agenda more time was requested to read the minutes so this item was postponed to the next meeting.

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.

4.1 To approve February expenditure

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

Unanimously resolved to support.

4.2 To approve bank reconciliations and corresponding bank statements

Unanimously resolved to approve.

4.3 To approve change of banks from HSBC to Unity Trust Bank

The RFO explained that HSBC did not use dual authorization which she felt was an extra level of protection for the council and recommended Unity Trust Bank.

It was unanimously resolved to support this.

Councillor French and Councillor Price agreed to act as the extra two signatories to the RFO.

4.4 To consider grant request for Holy Trinity churchyard upkeep

This item was discussed in public consultation time with local residents involved with the upkeep.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the grant request of £1,500 for the year 2024/25.

Clerk to contact Jeremy Kerswell of Plumpton College to see if there is any opportunity to involve students in the churchyard upkeep.

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

Andy Frost provided an update and photos of progress to date.

Unanimously resolved to approve payment.

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.

Concerns expressed re current status in light of Cooks Field.

It was agreed that the Council should meet on the 21st March to discuss the plan and the way forward.

Anita Emery the RFO left the meeting at 8.40pm.

5.2 Community emergency plan. Motion: "Councillors are asked to approve the 2024 Community Emergency Plan" (Cllr. Johnson-Cloves)

To be postponed to the next meeting in Councillor Johnson-Cloves absence.

5.3 District and County Councillors reports

Councillor Killeen gave her report.

Councillor Barnes gave her report.

County Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green gave her report which had been emailed out prior to the meeting.

5.4 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report.

5.5 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Circulated via email to councillors as received.

5.6 Urgent issues requiring attention

None raised.

6.0 **TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS**

Councillor French reported that two of the new central cats eyes on the A21 outside the school had already been dislodged.

Concern was raised re the possibility of someone living in Burgh Wood in a makeshift encampment.

Etchingham Parish Council also concerned. Clerk to invite Councillor John Barnes from Etchingham to join Councillors Browne and Levine to visit the encampment on the 20th March and investigate.

7.0 **PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS**

Councillor Browne reported that the tree saplings for Stage Field had arrived and he would heel them in his garden until the guards are brought then they can be transplanted in their final destination in Stage Field.

Councillor Brown will look into obtaining a grant for the work to be done.

7.1 Lodge Field regeneration project

Discussed under agenda item 4,5.

8.0 **PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES**

8.1 Parish Streetlights update

The Chair suspended Standing Orders for this agenda item as no supporting paper available.

The Clerk updated the Council re the current position with streetlights and noted that the parish had three lights out that needed to be actioned. The Council decided that more time and information was needed before any decision could be made. Clerk to email out documents.

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 due to time constraints.

8.3 Update re co-option to the Council to fill vacancy

No response received from Facebook notice re vacancy.

Councillor Levine to send template poster to Clerk to get printed and delivered to residents.

9.0 **PLANNING ISSUES**

9.1 Report from the Planning Committee

Councillor Pakenham gave the report.

9.2 To consider enforcement action re Bantham Farm

To be left until after decision made on current outstanding application for this site.

10.0 **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

To be emailed to the Clerk

11.0 **Date and time of next Meeting**

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th March 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

Dated