

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th June 2024 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm after public consultation at 7.30pm.

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

The Clerk was in attendance along with one member of the public.

In Councillor Browne's absence the Vice-Chair Councillor French chaired the meeting.

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Councillor Browne, Councillor Levine and District Councillor Killeen. Reasons for absence approved by the Council.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS: -

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 25th April 2024 and the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday the 23rd May 2024

Resolution to approve minutes proposed by Councillor Johnson-Cloves and seconded by Councillor Price. **Unanimously approved.**

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 Report

Due to the RFO position being vacant the Clerk gave the report which had been emailed out to Councillors prior to the meeting.

4.1 To approve June expenditure as listed on the schedule

List of invoices to be paid once access to bank account is obtained circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Resolution to approve payments proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillors Price. **Unanimously supported.**

4.2 Resolution to approve Risk Assessment.

Proposed by Councillor Johnson-Cloves and seconded by Councillor Price.

Unanimously **resolved** to approve.

4.3 Update re A Frost Design and to approve staged payment when work commences on site.

Andy Frost due to start work on site next week therefore no invoice rec'd.

Clerk to obtain an insurance quote from Zurich to insure new equipment.

5.0 COMMUNITY Activities and reports.

5.1 Neighbourhood Plan, progress report from steering group representative

Councillor French gave the report.

Alison Eardley is currently updating the maps. Updated draft plan to be circulated to Councillors before being more widely distributed.

5.2 District and County Councillors reports

Councillor Kirby-Green gave her report.

Councillor Barnes gave her report and thanked Councillor Johnson-Cloves for his work on the D-Day celebrations at Stage Field which she described as very moving.

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.

Clerk to contact Southern Homes re Foundry Close to request an update.

5.5 Urgent issues requiring attention

Councillor Pakenham will draw up a draft response to Rother's Local Plan consultation to be circulated to Councillors and approved before the submission end date on the 23rd July.

Clerk to get update re CIL money from RDC.

5.6 Resolution to support a village Fun Day on the 24th August 2024 (Cllr. Johnson-Cloves)

Resolution proposed by Councillor Johnson-Cloves and seconded by Councillor Brown.

Unanimously resolved to support.

6.0 **TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS**

Footpath alongside Stage Field down to Little Iridge Cottages is very overgrown and unwalkable.

Clerk to report.

The stile into Stage Field needs replacing with a more user friendly one and the Council has been offered a free stile from the ESCC Rights of Way Team (to be installed by the Council).

The Council agreed to contact the High Weald National Landscape officer, to see if the High Weald unit would still be prepared to replace the stile with a gate and also to install it at no charge. The Council agreed to both recommendations, with a preference over the High Weald scheme as this also included installation, the fall-back was to accept the ESCC offer.

7.0 **PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS**

7.1 Lodge Field regeneration project

Reported under agenda item 4.3.

7.2 To consider request to use Drewett Cricket Field as a venue for a fitness bootcamp

The Council **unanimously supported** this initiative provided it did not disturb current users and was respectful of the cricket pitch area and subject to the requester having their own adequate insurance.

Clerk to respond and note that there is no parking on site.

8.0 **PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES**

8.1 Parish Streetlights update and resolution to progress replacement of lights currently out.

Councillor Johnson-Cloves has been looking into this and proposed that the Council should consider this to be a capital project and upgrade the streetlights in the village to heritage lights and look at funding this with RDC's general CIL money fund available for all parishes to bid for.

Councillors Barnes and Kirby-Green left the meeting.

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).

To be postponed. Clerk still needs to check if RDC still wish to pass it on to the council.

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

Councillor Price asked the Clerk to contact Trevor Leggo to see what legislation governed the number of councillors needed on the Council and to check on timeframe for filling vacancies.

8.4 Resolution to approve a Public Bench policy to be adopted by the Council (Cllr. Brown)

Resolution proposed by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Johnson-Cloves.

Unanimously resolved to support.

8.5 Resolution to approve the appointment of Anita Maxwell to the position of RFO with a start date of the 1st July 2024 as recommended by the Finance committee

Proposed by Councillor Johnson-Cloves and seconded by Councillor Price.

Unanimously resolved to approve appointment.

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 July 2024 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

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 27th August 2024