

## HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm after public consultation at 7.30pm.

**Present:-** Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor Daly, Councillor French, Councillor Levine, Councillor Pakenham, Councillor Price, Councillor Ralph, District Councillor Barnes and County Councillor Kirby-Green.

The Clerk and RFO Anita Maxwell were in attendance along with six members of the public.

*The Chair welcomed the new RFO, Anita Maxwell and the two newly co-opted councillors, Maria Daly and Matthew Ralph to their first Council meeting.*

**1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** - Councillor Johnson-Cloves and District Councillor Killeen.

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

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

Councillor Brown asked for the minutes of the meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> June to be left to the next meeting to give more time to comment on them.

Resolution to approve minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> July proposed by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Levine. **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.*

Councillors felt that it would not be appropriate for the Council to comment on agenda item 8.2 planning application RR/2024/818/P due to the applicant being the Chair of the Council.

Councillor Pakenham declared an interest in agenda item 9.2 as agent of the owner of the property the invoice pertains to.

**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**

The RFO, Anita Maxwell gave the report which has been emailed out to Councillors prior to the meeting. To be noted the council is still waiting to hear from HSBC re the new mandate which has been submitted in order to access parish accounts.

**4.1 To approve June and July 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 Price and seconded by Councillors French. **Unanimously supported.**

**4.2 To note year to date accounts**

To be postponed to the next meeting when account information fully available.

**4.3 To approve bank reconciliations and corresponding bank statements**

To be postponed to the next meeting when account information fully available.

#### 4.4 To note current earmarked reserves

To be postponed to the next meeting when account information fully available.

#### 4.5 To discuss previously approved expenditure and update re progress and resolution to proceed to payment

To be reviewed at the next meeting when current financial position can be assessed.

#### 4.6 Resolution to approve post installation staged payment to Andy Frost Design subject to approved Risk Assessment reports and handover to the Council with the Clerk and RFO to be emailed by Cllrs Browne, French and Levine to proceed with payment.

It was resolved that this payment as previously agreed could be paid subject to successful Risk Assessments being received and work inspected and approved by Councillors Browne, French and Levine.

#### 4.7 To discuss insurance quote for the new playground equipment and resolution to proceed with payment in order to insure if agreed.

The Clerk has obtained a quote from Zurich for £985.21 per annum, (£855.64 for the rest of the year) which has been circulated to Councillors.

Councillors want to make sure that vandalism is covered by this quotation and to see if another company will quote for the cover needed.

It was resolved to proceed with the Zurich quotation if a cheaper alternative cannot be found and provided vandalism is covered in order to make sure the equipment is covered at time of hand over. Proposed by Councillor Levine and seconded by Councillor French. **Unanimously supported.**

### 5.0 **COMMUNITY Activities and reports.**

#### 5.1 Neighbourhood Plan, progress report from steering group representative

Councillor French gave the report.

It was noted that the change of Government could impact on Neighbourhood plans.

Councillor Pakenham asked for the updated draft plan to be circulated to Councillors to view.

#### 5.2 District and County Councillors reports

Councillor Barnes gave her report and asked that any issues to do with Southern homes should be reported to her as she has a link to help deal with problem issues.

Councillor Barnes noted that the strategic CIL pot was available to anyone and it was important to apply as soon as possible for this and to copy her in on the request.

Councillor Barnes thought that the developers of the site pertaining to RR/2021/2798/P (site opposite The Lodge) should be written to for an update.

Councillor Kirby-Green gave her report

Noted that Bantham Farm was appealing their enforcement under section 11b which is now becoming an increasing issue.

Rules re use of the Flexibus have been changed.

#### 5.3 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report.

#### 5.4 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

A resident expressed concern in public consultation time before the meeting, of their perceived issue with lack of consultation re the new play equipment and installation. Resident requested a home visit to discuss their concerns.

Also received as below,

i) email rec'd re-creation of a new footpath

Council noted that this was an issue to do with East Sussex County Council and not a parish matter. Clerk has already noted this to sender.

ii) request from HG Cricket Club for funding

Council has already responded re lack of funds for grants at this time but are happy to send in letters and emails of support to help the club in their efforts to get funding.

iii) email re lack of dropped kerb to access Village Hall

This is a work in progress and the Clerk will resubmit the required form which appears to have been mislaid.

#### 5.5 Urgent issues requiring attention

Councillor Price expressed issues re emails and the sending of them. Councillor Brown proposed the setting up of a Personnel Committee, rather than a staffing subcommittee to deal with these issues.

Councillor Ralph seconded this. **Unanimously supported.**

Councillors French, Price and Ralph agreed to serve on this committee.

## 6.0 TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS

The Chair noted that we did not currently have a footpath representative and Councillor Daly agreed to take this on.

### 6.1 Progress report re dropped kerb to access Village Hall

Discussed under agenda item 5.4, iii).

***Due to time issues and Councillor Barnes needing to leave the meeting the Chair moved Planning up the agenda.***

## 8.0 PLANNING

The Council expressed concern at yet another site, Grove Hill Farm, in the parish being used for soil dumping. RDC are aware.

### 8.1 RDC Planning decisions

These have been circulated to Councillors via email.

### 8.2 Planning Applications

**RR/2024/1097/P - Eggs To Apples Farm Shop**, London Road, Hurst Green TN19 7QP.

Construction of detached building to house dog grooming facility. **Not supported** with one abstention.

*Councillor Browne declared an interest in the next agenda item as he had in the past supplied potatoes to the applicant when they ran their current residence as a pub and would not comment.*

**RR/2024/1051/P - Silver Hill Oast - Land adj, Silver Hill**, Hurst Green TN19 7PU. Erection of 2x dwellings. **Unanimous not to support.**

**RR/2024/961/T - 9 McMichaels Way**, Hurst Green TN19 7HJ. Tree 1 - Pine tree - Remove dead wood and 2 limbs to balance canopy. Tree 2 - Oak tree - Reduced canopy by 25% and dead wood. **Supported** with 3 abstentions.

**RR/2024/818/P Pooks Farm, London Road**, Hurst Green TN19 7QS. Removal of condition 2 (Agricultural occupancy condition) imposed on RR/2004/2102/P.

Due to the applicant being the Chair of the Parish Council the Council will not comment on this application.

### 8.3 To appoint to Planning Committee and approve Chair

Councillors Brown, Daly, Levine, Pakenham and Ralph agreed to serve on this committee.

Chair to be elected at first committee meeting.

*Councillors Barnes and Kirby-Green left the meeting.*

## 7.0 PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS

It was agreed to set up a working group meeting to discuss Stage Field issues.

Councillors Brown, Browne, Daly, French and Johnson-Cloves will form the core of this group.

*The Chair suspended Standing Orders as no supporting paper for the next agenda item and outside permitted time limit for meetings.*

### 7.1 Lodge Field regeneration project

Councillor Brown reported on the Orchard grant scheme which he felt would be useful in phase two of Lodge Field regeneration project and help enhance the field and its facilities.  
The Council **agreed to support** this with one abstention.

## 9.0 PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES – Close session

The Public and press are excluded from agenda items 9.1 and 9.2 due to the confidential nature of the items to be discussed.

It was agreed as a confidential and urgent item, agenda item 5.5 that the resident who has complained re a perceived lack of consultation re the new play equipment should be discussed. Resident to be contacted with apologies for not personally consulting the immediate neighbours re the project.

### 9.1 Resolution to approve Contract of Employment for the RFO

This item was postponed to the next meeting as still a work in progress.

*Councillor Pakenham and Councillor Browne declared an interest in the next agenda item and left the meeting.*

*The Vice-Chair Councillor French chaired the rest of the meeting.*

### 9.2 To discuss and resolve payment for outstanding invoice from B&A Builders

Councillor French has been in contact with the builders and this is still ongoing.

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

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.47pm.

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 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024