

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th August 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 Johnson-Cloves, Councillor Pakenham, Councillor Ralph, District Councillor Barnes and County Councillor Kirby-Green.

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

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Councillor Levine, Councillor Price, (reasons approved) 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 25th June 2024 and Tuesday the 30th July 2024.

Resolution to approve minutes of the meeting held on the 25th June proposed by Councillor Pakenham and seconded by Councillor French. **Unanimously approved.**

Resolution to approve minutes of the meeting held on the 30th July proposed by Councillor Daly and seconded by Councillor Ralph. **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 declared.

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 RFO is now able to issue cheques but has no online access for BAC payments or up to date bank account details.

4.1 To approve August expenditure as listed on the schedule

List of invoices to be paid emailed to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Resolution to approve payments proposed by Councillor Ralph and seconded by Councillors Daly.

Unanimously approved.

New play equipment has been Risk Assessed and approved by Councillors Browne, French and Levine and invoice received for payment. Both the RFO and Clerk concerned that the invoice is lower than expected.

Payment to Andy Frost proposed by Councillor Johnson-Cloves and seconded by Councillor Brown.

4.2 To approve ten hours overtime worked by RFO and expenses as listed

Proposed by Councillor Johnson-Cloves and seconded by Councillor Daly. **Unanimously approved.**

4.3 To note year to date accounts

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

4.4 To approve bank reconciliations and corresponding bank statements

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

4.5 To note current earmarked reserves

Noted..

4.6 To give a donation to the Hurst Green celebrations held in 2024 of £500 under the LGA 72 s.145

This was agreed at the precept meeting and funds ear marked for his . **Unanimously supported.**

4.7 To formally accept the donation given by Caravan Tech towards the D-D celebrations.

It was **unanimously agreed** to accept this donation.

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

It was proposed by Councillor Johnson-Cloves and seconded by Councillor Brown to accept the quotation from Zurich. **Unanimously supported.**

5.0 **COMMUNITY Activities and reports.**

5.1 Neighbourhood Plan, progress report from steering group representative

No update to report.

5.2 District and County Councillors reports

Councillor Kirby-Green gave her report. Noted that Fysie Lane was to be surveyed and resurfaced. Clerk asked about the weight restriction re the bridge. Councillor Kirby-Green will investigate. Councillor Barnes gave her report and noted that RDC's response re Freedom of Information request regarding the site beside the church was factually incorrect re consultation process. Clerk to respond..

Councillor Barnes and Councillor Kirby-Green left the meeting at 8.30pm

Councillor Browne temporarily left the meeting and Councillor French took over as Chair.

5.3 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report.

5.4 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

This agenda item was moved to the closed session at the end of the meeting due to confidential and sensitive matter to be discussed.

Councillor Browne rejoined the meeting and resumed the chair.

5.5 Urgent issues requiring attention

Councillor Brown has received an email from Fasthosts re changes to their services and unsupported .gov domain name. Councillor Brown will liaise with Councillor Ralph to deal with this matter. Councillor Pakenham reported a couple of the fencing planks at the entrance to Lodge Field have been pulled off with one broken. Councillor Browne will assist Councillor Pakenham in repairing the damage.

6.0 **TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS**

Nothing to report..

7.0 **PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS**

Councillor Browne has the Risk Assessment for Lodge Field and will give to Councillor French to scan and circulate before giving it to the Clerk. To be noted, Andy Frost has carried out any remedial work needed and new play equipment can now be used.

Councillor Browne will arrange transport and storage for the safety fencing removal with help from other councillors on Saturday.

Councillor Johnson-Cloves will work on the official opening ceremony.

It was agreed to set up a working group meeting to discuss Lodge Field and phase two of the regeneration project.

A Stage Field working party meeting to be arranged..

8.0 PLANNING, report from planning committee.
Councillor Brown gave the report..

The Public and press are excluded from agenda items 9.1 to 9.3 and 5.4 due to the confidential nature of the items to be discussed.

9.0 PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES – Close session

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.

Agenda item 9.3 moved up the agenda to be discussed next along with 5.4.

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

The Chair outlined the history re this payment which was approved by the last Council.

The Council **agreed to honour the payment, now called in, of £750** on receipt of the power under which this can be paid from the requestor. There was one abstention and six for so **resolved to pay**.

5.4 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Council discussed ongoing issue re resident's concerns. Clerk to contact.

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

It was agreed that Councillor French should approach the builders re a reduction in the two items, no32 and 33 that the Council requested should be stopped before completion to see if any adjustment could be made re cost. A £1,000 reduction was suggested but the Council **resolved that this invoice should be paid in full even if no reduction achieved.**

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 24^h September 2024 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.23pm.

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

Dated 24th September 2024