

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26th November 2024 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm after public consultation from 7.30pm.

Present:- Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor French, Councillor Levine, 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 Daly, Councillor Johnson-Cloves, Councillor Price and District Councillor Killeen (reasons approved).

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS: -

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29th October 2024.

Postponed to the next meeting as Councillors did not think they had been produced early enough to study.

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.

4.1 To approve November 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 Pakenham and seconded by Councillor Levine. **Unanimously approved.**

4.2 To note year to date accounts

Noted.

4.3 To approve bank reconciliations and corresponding bank statements

Proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Levine.

Unanimously approved.

4.4 To note current earmarked reserves and approve transfers

Noted.

4.5 To approve grant of £1,000 for the Village Hall under LGA72 s137

Proposed by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Ralph.

Resolution was **unanimously supported.**

4.6 To note increased pay scales as per statutory requirements and backdated staff payments

Noted.

The RFO, Anita Maxwell left the meeting..

5.0 COMMUNITY Activities and reports.

5.1 Neighbourhood Plan, progress report from steering group representative

Councillor French gave the report.

Councillor Barnes requested Neighbourhood plan information which Councillor French said he would supply.

5.2 Community Orchard Grant scheme - update

Application has been approved and paperwork needs to be sorted out and returned to Rother.

5.3 Parish Events- update (Cllr. Levine))

Councillor Levine updated the Council and outlined the various events planned for 2025.

5.4 District and County Councillors reports

Councillor Barnes reported on the death of the local vicar and the new RDC head of planning.

Councillor Kirby-Green noted that ESCC had a budget shortfall.

5.5 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report.

Issue with moles in Drewetts again. To be monitored as best time for treatment is February and March.

SLR (Strengthening Local Relations, East Sussex Highways) due to be held on the 22nd January.

5.6 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Clerk had nothing to report but Councillor Pakenham reported that the trees had been planted in Lodge Field today and the position approved by local resident who had had issues with the new play equipment.

5.7 Urgent issues requiring attention

Councillor Browne reported that the fence at the entrance to Lodge Field had been vandalised and was down. This urgently needs to be replaced due to the proximity of the road to the playground.

It will cost approximately £549 to replace and it was unanimously agreed to proceed with this due to Health and safety issues.

6.0 PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES

6.1 To approve Contract of Employment for the RFO

This item was postponed to the next meeting as the clerk is still waiting to view draft contract before being sent to councillors and RFO for approval.

6.2 To approve Terms of Reference for Finance Committee

This item was postponed to a future meeting. Existing terms to be used until update done.

6.3 To approve Councillor Ralph's appointment to the finance committee

This was **unanimously approved**.

6.4 To consider the position re the car park and Rother's intention to make them all chargeable and whether the Council needs to push on with taking it over.

It was agreed that a working party should be set up to include the Village Hall committee to look at the issues involved. Proposed by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Browne.

Unanimously supported..

6.5 To consider using the services of a self employed person to carry out routine village maintenance work

To be postponed to the January meeting.

6.6 Report from the Planning Committee

Councillor French gave the report.

Councillor Ralph gave an additional report on the visit by Greymoor representatives re the Foundry Close and Church sites, the latter of which they own.

Councillors Barnes and Kirby-Green left the meeting (9.45pm).

7.0 TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS

Councillor Levine reported concerns re the condition of the surface of Fysie Lane which was badly deteriorating with potholes and loose gravel. To be reported.

8.0 PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS

8.1 Lodge Field regeneration project, progress report

As previously reported 3 new trees planted at the front of the field to shield neighbour's view of new equipment. Council still needs to assess if all the work agreed in the tender has been completed before final payment is made to the contractors.

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 due to be held on Tuesday 28^h January 2025 to be brought forward to the 21st January and held 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 Cllr. Graham Browne, Chair

Dated 28th January 2025