

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th January 2025 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm after planning committee meeting at 7.10pm.

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

The Clerk was in attendance along with three members of the public.

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Councillor Brown, Councillor Johnson-Cloves, District Councillor Killeen and the RFO, Anita Maxwell (reasons approved).

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS: -

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 29th October 2024 and the 26th November 2024

Proposed by Councillor Levine and seconded by Councillor Price. **Unanimously approved.**

2.1 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:-

Members of the Finance committee to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th November 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Browne and seconded by Councillor Ralph. **Unanimously approved** by Finance committee members.

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

In the absence of the RFO, Anita Maxwell the Clerk gave the report and noted that the RFO had emailed out to Councillors all the figures and documents prior to the meeting.

4.1 To approve December and January 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 Daly 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 Daly and seconded by Councillor French.

Unanimously approved.

4.4 To note current earmarked reserves and approve transfers

Noted.

4.5 To approve precept application of £65,818

In depth details had been emailed to all councillors after the finance committee meeting re the precept and it was agreed that the sum of £65,818 was required for the parish works.

Proposed by Councillor Ralph and seconded by Councillor Price.

It was **resolved that the sum of £65,818** should be set and was **unanimously supported**.

5.0 COMMUNITY Activities and reports.

Councillor Levine reported that a working party meeting for events would take place on the 4th February at 7.00pm in the village hall.

5.1 Neighbourhood Plan, progress report from steering group representative

Councillor French gave the report.

It was noted that a meeting with John Slater, the external examiner of the Neighbourhood plan would take place.

Extra funds of up to £2,000 to support the ongoing work would be needed. This was **unanimously resolved**.

An Extraordinary General Meeting is to be held on the 13th February re the Neighbourhood plan submission.

5.2 Community Orchard Grant scheme - update

It was agreed to add this to the agenda for the EGM.

Councillor Kirby-Green joined the meeting. .

5.3 District and County Councillors reports

Councillor Barnes reported on a new RDC housing consultation, dropped car park charging scheme and drop in reserves below the minimum recommended figure..

Councillor Kirby-Green updated the Council re devolution.

5.4 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report.

5.5 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Clerk had nothing to report.

Councillor Price asked the Chair to move agenda item 6.4 up the agenda to be discussed before 5.6 to which the chair agreed.

6.4 To consider purchase a Laptop and Mobile phone for the Clerk (Cllr.Price)

This was proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Brown. **Unanimously resolved**. Councillor Ralph will deal with the purchase.

5.6 Urgent issues requiring attention

Councillor Price reported that she was standing down from the staffing committee with immediate effect.

Councillors Barnes and Kirby-Green left the meeting.

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

After much discussion it was agreed that this item should go on a future agenda with the intention of a referendum of the village to gauge public opinion and support for this.

6.3 Report from the Planning Committee

Report given by Councillor Pakenham.

7.0 TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS

7.1 To consider ESCC correspondence re public Rights of Way
Noted.

8.0 PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS

8.1 Lodge Field regeneration project, progress report

Tender document to be checked and works carried out checked against it for compliance. Councillors Browne, French and Levine to meet on Tuesday 4th February at 9.30am in Lodge Field.

8.2 Mole treatment for Drewetts Field

It was unanimously agreed to proceed with mole treatment in Drewetts Field using previous supplier.

9.0 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

To be emailed to the Clerk.

10.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

An Emergency General Meeting to be held on the 13th February 2025 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.
The next Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 25th February 2025 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

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 25th March 2025