

## HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm.

**Present:-** Councillor Daly, Councillor French (Vice Chair), Councillor Levine, Councillor Pakenham, Councillor Price and District Councillor Barnes.

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

**1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** - Councillor Browne, Councillor Brown, Councillor Johnson-Cloves, Councillor Ralph, District Councillor Killeen and County Councillor Kirby-Green (reasons for absences approved).

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

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Postponed to the next meeting.

**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 her report.

Councillor Pakenham asked what rate of interest the Council received. The RFO will check and report back on this.

#### **4.1 To approve February 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 French and seconded by Councillor Daly.

**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 Daly.

**Unanimously approved.**

#### **4.4 To note current earmarked reserves and approve transfers**

Postponed to next meeting.

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

Councillor Levine reported that a working party meeting for events was due to meet.

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

Councillor French gave the report.

*The RFO, Anita Maxwell left the meeting.*

## 5.2 Community Orchard Grant scheme

The Clerk has asked for an extension to the deadline for this due to the inclement weather delaying progress.

## 5.3 District and County Councillors reports

Councillor Barnes reported on the new RDC Head of Planning, Mike Hughes and the budget which had been agreed the previous evening.

Councillor Kirby-Green had emailed her report to Councillors in her absence.

## 5.4 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report which included residents' concerns re the Trooli telegraph poles and an online meeting with the Highways Agency re plans for improving safety on the A21.

## 5.5 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Clerk reported main issue was the Trooli telegraph poles which residents were unhappy about..

- a) RDC- Consultation on new Housing Development Strategy. Clerk drew Councillors attention to this.

## 5.6 Urgent issues requiring attention

Councillor Daly reported issues with not receiving emails. Councillor Price had also previously reported this issue.

Councillors Brown and Ralph to be asked to look into this issue and whether to move to another email provider.

## 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 Report from the Planning Committee

Report given by Councillor French.

### 6.3 To approve appointment of Councillor Daly to the staffing committee

This was **unanimously approved**.

### 6.4 Progress report on surveying village re employments of village maintenance services

Clerk asked to contact Etchingham Clerk to see how their system operated.

### 6.5 Corner Garden, maintenance

The current provider is no longer able to provide this service. To be put on the next agenda.

### 6.6 Foundry Close, taking on the Open Space element of the site

To be put on the next agenda.

### 6.7 Street lighting contract with ESCC.

To be put on the next agenda.

## 7.0 **TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS**

*Councillor Barnes left the meeting.*

Still issue with potholes with Merriments Lane particularly bad. Clerk to chase up.

## 8.0 **PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS**

The moles in Drewetts Field have been dealt with for the time being with 22 being caught.

### 8.1 Lodge Field regeneration project, progress report

Councillor Levine reported that everything in the tender appeared to have been done and that the holdback money could be paid when requested.

**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 is due to be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.22pm.

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 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025