

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th March 2025 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm.

Present:- Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor French, Councillor Johnson-Cloves, Councillor Levine, Councillor Pakenham, Councillor Ralph, and County Councillor Kirby-Green. The Clerk and RFO, Anita Maxwell were in attendance along with six members of the public.

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Councillor Daly, Councillor Price, District Councillor Barnes and District Councillor Killeen (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 28th January 2025, 13th February and 25th February 2025.

Minutes of the 28th January 2025 proposed by Councillor Levine and seconded by Councillor Pakenham. **Unanimously approved.**

Minutes of the 13th February 2025 proposed by Councillor Levine and seconded by Councillor Johnson-Cloves. **Unanimously approved.**

Minutes of the 25th February 2025 proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Pakenham. **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 her report and noted that the annual audit was booked in for the 17th April.

4.1 To approve March 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 Johnson-Cloves and seconded by Councillor French. **Unanimously approved.**

4.2 To note year to date accounts

Noted.

4.3 To approve bank reconciliations and corresponding bank statements

Proposed by Councillor Johnson-Cloves and seconded by Councillor Ralph.

Unanimously approved.

4.4 To note current earmarked reserves and approve transfers

Noted.

4.5 To consider a donation to Rother Rural Trust under s137

It was **unanimously resolved to approve** a grant of £100 to Rother Rural Trust.

4.6 To consider a grant to Hurst Green Twinning Association under s137

It was **resolved (5-1) to approve** a grant of £1000 to Hurst Green Twinning Association.

A report on how the money is used was requested as part of the terms of the donation.

5.0 COMMUNITY Activities and reports.

5.1 Neighbourhood Plan, progress report from steering group representative

Councillor French gave the report.

John Slater has emailed a preview of his report for fact checking, and he expected, pending any challenges from the District Council that John Slater would publish his report in the coming weeks, which we hoped he would recommend was suitable to go to referendum.

The RFO, Anita Maxwell left the meeting.

5.2 Community Orchard Grant scheme update

The Chair reported that 31 fruit trees had been planted and were looking good and thanked Councillor Brown for all his work on this and getting the grant money that made it possible.

5.3 Community events, update

The Events working party had met and agreed the date of the 8th May for the VE celebrations in Stage Field with the Beacon being lit.

A children's (under 12) Halloween party was planned for the 31st October in the Village Hall.

Sponsorship was being sort from local businesses to help fund the events. Councillors approved this.

5.4 District and County Councillors reports

Councillor Kirby-Green gave her report which had been emailed to Councillors prior to the meeting.

In Councillor Barnes's absence Councillor Kirby-Green updated the Council on Rother issues.

Councillor Kirby-Green reported that in the event a Flexibus was cancelled then this should be backed up by a Taxi service to carry out the booked services.

5.5 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report which included further residents' concerns re the Trooli telegraph poles. Clerk to try and contact the company again.

5.6 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Clerk has emailed this to councillors upon receipt.

5.7 Urgent issues requiring attention

Councillor Johnson-Cloves expressed concern that the A21 at Silverhill had been closed due to accidents every week since the A21 safety improvements and expressed concern that the new changes in the speed restrictions may be a contributory factor. Clerk to contact the A21 safety team re this.

National Highways have requested a breakdown of what is needed to repair the Corner Garden after being damaged by their workman. The Chair will source replacement roses and contact the team.

6.0 PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES

6.1 Report from the Planning Committee

Report given by Councillor French.

6.2 To consider taking on the ownership of the Peace Garden at Foundry Close site.

Councillors discussed options regarding ownership of the Peace Garden at Foundry Close, and the action that the Council agreed was that the Clerk should contact Southern Homes to propose shared responsibility, with the Council taking ownership of the land, with Southern Homes providing maintenance for it. Clerk to contact them and suggest a meeting.

6.3 Progress report and update re employment of contractor for village maintenance services

Councillors wanted more information on this and asked the Clerk to draw up a work schedule and to obtain information from Etchingham on their scheme.

6.4 Corner Garden, maintenance

To be postponed to the next meeting.

6.5 Street lighting contract with ESCC.

Details re contract and invoice only received on day of meeting therefore this item was postponed to the next meeting.

Councillors asked the Clerk to see if the County Council would take over ownership of the lights.

7.0 TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS

The Clerk reported that having contacted the ESCC stakeholder liaison officer she was told that the landslide on Ticehurst road would be cleared by the end of the week and that 5 out of 8 reported potholes in Merriments Lane had been repaired.

Issue with water leak just off of Merriments Lane has been resolved.

7.1 East Sussex's Rights of Way Access Plan

The Clerk was requested to complete the survey on behalf of the Council.

8.0 PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS

The moles in Drewetts Field appear to be making a comeback.

8.1 Drewetts Cricket Field, Memorandum of Understanding

The Council discussed exploring what would be involved in dissolving the charity that the Council is the sole trustee of and taking on ownership of the field instead.

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 29th April 2025 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

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 27th May 2025