

## HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.54pm.

**Present:-** Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor Daly, Councillor French, Councillor Johnson-Cloves, Councillor Levine, Councillor Pakenham, Councillor Price, Councillor Ralph, District Councillor Killeen and County Councillor Kirby-Green. The Clerk was in attendance along with four members of the public.

**1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** - The RFO, Anita Maxwell and District Councillor Barnes.

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

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 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 had emailed the finance paperwork to councillors in her absence.

**4.1 To approve April expenditure as listed on the schedule**

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

It was agreed that the payment to Andy Frost should be delayed until Councillors could inspect the Field to make sure all tendered work had been completed. Clerk to email out relevant documents.

Previous inspection to check the work only covered the repairs.

Resolution to approve payments subject to the above omission 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 Johnson-Cloves and seconded by Councillor French.

**Unanimously approved.**

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

Noted.

**4.5 Motion to approve expenditure for the VE celebrations under LGA72, s145**

The event to be held on Stage Field on the 8<sup>th</sup> May at a cost of £2,000. Itemized breakdown given by Councillor Johnson-Cloves.

Proposed by Councillor Johnson-Cloves and seconded by Councillor Price. **Unanimously supported.**

**4.6 Motion a approve a grant to Holy Trinity churchyard under LGA72, s215**

A grant request form has been received for a sum of £1,000 to help with the churchyard maintenance.

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

**Unanimously supported.**

4.7 Motion to approve expenditure for repair of water supply to Drewetts Field –  
*That this Council, having previously noted and being informed that emergency repair work to the water supply serving the cricket pavilion was required, notes that this has been completed at a cost of £800, and that this action was arranged by the Chairman under delegated authority for urgent matters, does hereby approve the expenditure and authorizes payment of the bill, noting that the cost falls within the Council's allocated emergency repairs budget (Cllr. Brown).*

Proposed by Councillor Browne and seconded by Councillor Johnson-Cloves.  
**Unanimously supported**

4.8 Motion to approve final payment to Andy Frost re new play equipment.  
 To be held back see agenda item 4.1.

4.9 Motion to approve repayment of one goal post in Lodge Field for £620  
 Proposed by Councillor Browne and seconded by Councillor Johnson-Cloves.  
**Unanimously supported.**

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

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

- i) Motion - *That this council for reasons of complying with the terms of its grant award of £2,030, will following valid expenditure of £1,500.00 (ex VAT), instruct the Council's RFO to return the unspent sum of £530.00 to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. (Cllr. Brown)*

Proposed by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Browne. **Unanimously supported**

### **5.2 Community events, update**

Councillor Levine reported that she had managed to get an unwanted prize of free hall hire for an event to use for the Halloween party planned for the 31<sup>st</sup> October in the Village Hall.

### **5.3 District and County Councillors reports**

Councillor Kirby-Green gave her report and noted she was on the case of the appalling state of the Bodiam Road and Merriments Lane.

Councillor Killeen reported that the Planning Department at RDC was currently very understaffed..

### **5.4 Clerk's report**

The Clerk gave her report and noted that RoSPA had been booked in to carry out the annual risk assessment of Lodge Field play equipment..

### **5.5 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues**

Clerk has emailed this to councillors upon receipt.

Of particular note see below,

- i) email from local resident re condition of Bodiam Road

### **5.6 Urgent issues requiring attention**

The Annual Parish Assembly is being held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

Councillor Levine will contact Iden signs re advertising posters or banners.

An EGM was requested by Councillor Pakenham for the following week to discuss Cooks Filed in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan

## **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.**

Councillor Brown had phoned Southern Homes to see if they would be happy to work with the Council re materials used for the garden and possible inclusion of a plaque. Clerk to contact them.

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

Etchingam's clerk had supplied information on how the scheme worked for them and was very positive.

It was agreed to progress with this looking at the use of a self-employed contractor rather than employing someone. Councillors Johnson-Cloves will work on a work schedule and the Clerk will ask the RFO how much money could potentially be available for this.

**6.4 Corner Garden, maintenance**

To be looked at in conjunction with agenda item 6.3 above.

**6.5 Street lighting contract with ESCC.**

Councillor Johnson-Cloves requested that the Clerk should find out the current cost of electricity per kilowatt.

*Councillors Killeen and Kirby-Green left the meeting at 9.50pm..*

**6.6 Community Orchard - to consider supporting the creation of a friends of Hurst Green Community Orchard group and other matters relating to the Community Orchard.**

Concern was expressed re the welfare of the trees due to the long dry spell.

It was suggested that the Chair should water the trees once a week as necessary at a cost of £60 a session. This was **unanimously supported**.

*Councillor Price left the meeting..*

**6.7 Council email provision - to consider moving the Council's email away from incumbent provider ahead of upcoming renewals due in May 2025.**

Due to continuing issues re the councils' current provider it was agreed to look at moving to another provider. Councillor Ralph will obtain quotes.

**7.0 TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS**

Nothing further to report.

**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**

Nothing more to report..

**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 (AGM) is due to be held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.12pm.

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 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025