

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29th July 2025 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.48pm.

Present:- Councillor French (Vice-Chair), Councillor Daly, Councillor Johnson-Cloves, Councillor Levine, Councillor Price, Councillor Ralph, District Councillor Barnes and County Councillor Kirby-Green.

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

Councillor French chaired the meeting in the absence of Councillor Browne.

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor Pakenham and District Councillor Killeen. Reasons approved.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS: -

To sign as a correct record the minutes of the EGM held on Friday 20th June and the 9th July 2025 (rescheduled from the 24th June)..

Minutes of the 20th June, proposed by Councillor Johnson-Cloves and seconded by Councillor Ralph. Minutes of the 9th July, proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Daly.

Unanimously approved by those present at the meetings.

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.

4.1 To approve bank reconciliation and corresponding bank statements for April, May and June. Resolution to approve reconciliations and bank statements proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Levine. **Unanimously approved.**

4.2 To approve July expenses and payments as itemised on the schedule

Councillor Johnson-Cloves queried the grass cutting schedule and wanted more detailed information. To be put on the next agenda.

Resolution to approve payments proposed by Councillor Johnson-Cloves and seconded by Councillor Daly. **Unanimously approved.**

4,3 To note year to date accounts

Noted.

5.0 COMMUNITY Activities and reports.

5.1 Neighbourhood Plan, progress report from steering group representative

Councillor French gave the report.

A resident offered to help complete the changes needed in the Neighbourhood Plan document in order to progress it to referendum stage.

This offer was accepted. Councillor French will liaise.

The RFO, Anita Maxwell left the meeting.

5.2 Community events, update

Councillor Levine reported that the Halloween event in the Village Hall was the next planned event.

5.3 District and County Councillors reports

Councillor Barnes gave her report and noted that the higher interest rates had yielded an unexpected bonus to Rother funds and that Rother's housing allocation was now set at 930 per annum.

Councillor Kirby-Green gave her report and noted that devolution was progressing with the overall respondents to the consultation preferring one unity authority for East Sussex and Brighton.

Grants are now available for defibs. Councillor Johnson-Cloves has already responded to this..

5.4 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report.

5.5 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Clerk has emailed this to councillors upon receipt.

5.6 Urgent issues requiring attention

A member of the public raised concerns re overgrown hedge next to the Pigeon House, behind the Defib box. Clerk will action.

6.0 **TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS, report**

A resident reported that the pavement on Station Road between the Village Hall and the junction with the A21 is in a very poor condition and is a serious trip hazard. Councillor Kirby-Green advised that Liz Humphries our stakeholder liaison officer at ESCC should be asked to get a pavement inspection carried out. Clerk will action.

6.1 Rother Parking Review, 3

Concern re 'no parking' areas identified in the review for three small sections of Station Road to be made into 'No parking' zones. Clerk will respond.

6.2 ESCC - new working practice for temporary road safety posters

The Council decided that no action was needed.

7.0 **PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS**

7.1 Motion, This Council agrees to continue as trustees of Drewetts Field and follow the directions of the Charity Commission re usage and care of this facility.
Postponed in Councillor Brown's absence.

7.2 Community Orchard update and finishing of planned works.

Clerk updated re latest position known. To be put on next agenda.

8.0 **PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES**

8.1 Planning update/report

Two decision's rec'd and circulated. One new application rec'd on day of meeting. Clerk to contact re extension for response as deadline before next meeting.

i) Enforcement issues and associated motions

Nothing new to report.

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

The Council proposed that a self-employed person should be sourced, initially for 5 hours a month to carry out work for the Council.

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

Unanimously supported.

Clerk will contact Etchingham, Burwash and Robertsbridge to see if their maintenance workers would be interested.

8.3 Street lighting contract with ESCC.

Councillor Brown is seeking a date for a meeting with senior ESCC staff re this matter.

Councillor Kirby-Green reported that the invoice was on hold.

Councillor Barnes and Councillor Kirby-Green left the meeting.

8.4 Appointment of members to committees

- a) Finance committee, election of members and Chair
- b) Staffing committee, election of members and Chair
- c) Planning Committee, election of members and Chair
- d) Events committee, election of members and Chair

To be postponed to the next meeting when more councillors present

8.5 Appointment of Representatives

- a) Community Representatives
- b) Representative to East Sussex ALC (1)
- c) For Other Parish Green Spaces, Tree and Environmental issues

To be postponed to the next meeting when more councillors present

8.6 To appoint members to a working party to review all the council's policies and procedures.

To be postponed to the next meeting when more councillors present

8.7 To discuss quote re Corner Garden

Councillor Johnson-Cloves has rec'd three quotes to carry out tree and other work to make the space more suitable for planting and ongoing maintenance.

Councillor Johnson-Cloves proposed that the Council should accept the lowest quote. This was seconded by Councillor Price. **Unanimously supported.**

8.8 RDC Asset devolution re Stage Field and the Car park and any associated motions.

It was **unanimously resolved** that the Council should express an interest in obtaining the freehold of Stage Field and the car park, the only assets in the parish owned by Rother (according to RDC).

The Chair suspended Standing Orders for the next items as the meeting will overrun set time allowance.

8.9 Minutes (Cllr. Levine)

Councillor Levine asked if it was possible to get minutes out earlier and published in draft format on the website. Clerk will work to action this but wants feedback on minutes before publishing in draft format.

9.0 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Councillor Johnson -Cloves requested that Community Purchase/Interest orders be put on the next agenda. Other items 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 26th August 2025 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

26th August 2025