

## HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm.

**Present:-** Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor French (Vice-Chair), Councillor Levine, Councillor Price, Councillor Ralph, District Councillor Barnes, District Councillor Killeen and County Councillor Kirby-Green.

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

**1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** - Councillor Daly, Councillor Johnson-Cloves and Councillor Pakenham..

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

To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Levine.

**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 the report.

#### **4.1 To approve bank reconciliation and corresponding bank statements**

Resolution to approve reconciliations and bank statements proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor Ralph. **Unanimously approved.**

#### **4.2 To approve September expenses and payments as itemised on the schedule**

Resolution to approve payments proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Levine.

**Unanimously approved.**

#### **4.3 To note year to date accounts**

Noted.

#### **4.4 To note conclusion of audit and external auditor's report**

Noted.

#### **4.5 New draft Financial Regulations**

The RFO has prepared an updated set of Financial Regulation's based on the new model which were emailed to councillors prior to the meeting.

To be postponed to the next meeting to give more time to consider.

*The Chair moved agenda item 9.5 up the agenda to be discussed next as both the RFO and Clerk are happy for this to be discussed in public and whilst the RFO is still present at the meeting.*

#### **9.5 Staff expenditure and reimbursement of monies owed**

The RFO reported that the annual salary increase, based on NJC had been applied and backdated to April as per normal practise.

The RFO asked the Council if they were happy to pay back the pension overpayments paid in error by the previous RFO. Currently trying to get the overpayments back from ESCC. **This was agreed.**

#### 4.6 Set date for Finance Committee precept meeting

Set for Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm

*The RFO, Anita Maxwell left the meeting.*

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

#### 5.1 District and County Councillors reports

Councillor Killeen reported that the new RDC planning system was up and running on the website. Councillor Barnes reported on the current position re Devolution. The election of the Mayor is due to take place in May 2026 with May 2027 outlined as the start date for the new unitary authority. Councillor Kirby-Green gave her report. Noted that around March 2026 we would hear from central government what was going to happen re devolution and East Sussex.

#### 5.2 Neighbourhood Plan, progress report from steering group representatives

Councillor French gave the report and reported that everything has now been submitted to RDC. Clerk to contact re referendum date.

#### 5.3 Dark Sky Certification Initiative for the South East, motion to support

A presentation was made prior to the meeting re Wild about Dark skies.

Councillor Brown noted that we already had a policy to support this but would like more info before taking further action. To be put on the next agenda.

#### 5.4 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report.

Noted that an expression of interest has been submitted to RDC re freehold of Stage Field and the Car park behind the village hall. More info to be obtained from Joe Powell with a meeting to discuss whether to proceed with the car park booked for the 16<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm in the hall.

#### 5.5 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Clerk has emailed to councillors upon receipt.

##### i) Dangerous dogs issue

Reports of two serious dog attacks on livestock in the village, Whilst the first attack was unwitnessed the second was seen and recorded on CCTV but Sussex Police took a month to visit the victims of the second attack and as yet no action taken.

Clerk to contact Katy Bourne the PCC re the Council's concerns over lack of action.

ii) Inconsiderate parking issue - reports rec'd and on Facebook re inconsiderate parking in the village with pedestrians unable to use pavements due to parked cars and hence forced into the road. Councillor Brown and the clerk have reported this to Sussex Police and there appears to be some improvement in the situation with the police being more vigilant.

#### 5.6 Urgent issues requiring attention

Concern expressed re the 24/7 traffic lights being in place on the A21 for 6 weeks outside Ashdene for road improvements and the continuing night closures for tree works.

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

Noted under Clerk's report

### 7.0 **PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS**

The Cricket Club have reported increased mole activity in Drewetts Field and have asked the Council to action. **This was agreed.** Clerk to contact contractor.

#### 7.1 Stage field, fencing off dangerous depression/hole in field.

Chair reported large hole/depression in Stage Field when mowing. It was agreed that the chair would put up a temporary rope barrier and the site monitored.

**Unanimously supported.**

## 7.2 Community Orchard update and finishing of planned works.

Councillor Brown updated the Council re the deer fencing which has arrived and one sample tree fenced off. Main issue at the current time is that the ground is too hard to get stakes in so will need to wait for some rain to soften the ground before further action can be taken.

## 8.0 **PLANNING**

### 8.1 Planning update/report

#### i) Decisions & Enforcement issues

No decisions or notifications received to date.

#### ii) Planning application

**RR/2025/1440/P - Iridge Place** - Land Adjoining, London Road, Hurst Green TN19 7PN. Application to modify the S106 agreement associated with planning permission RR/2022/1526/P to amend the affordable housing provision.. **The council agreed to submit a comment** which Councilor Brown would draft and circulate for approval requesting that local criteria should be applied if Rother was mindful to approve the application.

## 9.0 **PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES**

### 9.1 Village Maintenance

As yet one hour worked repairing play equipment and tidying entrance.  
Next identified job to put up the fence around the football area.

### 9.2 Corner Garden maintenance

To investigate making the area quicker to maintain and the estimated time to maintain after re designing and planting.

### 9.3 Appointment of additional members to committees

#### a) Finance committee, election of members and Chair

It was agreed that the existing four Councillors would be sufficient for this committee.

#### b) Planning Committee, election of members and Chair

Councillors Brown and Levine agreed to join this committee. Chair to be elected at first meeting.

### 9.4 Annual Parish Conference 15<sup>th</sup> October, Brede

Clerk will attend.

### 9.5 Staff expenditure and reimbursement of monies owed

Moved up the agenda and discussed under finance.

## 9.0 **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

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 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.08pm.

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

28<sup>th</sup> October 2025