

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:- Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Daly, Councillor French, Councillor Johnson-Cloves, Councillor Levine, Councillor Pakenham, 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 five members of the public.

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Councillor Brown.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: -

To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 28th October 2025. Proposed by Councillor Daly and seconded by Councillor Ralph.

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.*

Councillor Price declared an interest in agenda item 9.1 as she lived at one of the sites.

All Councillors declared an interest in 9.1 as fellow parish Councillor Price resided at one of the sites

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.*

The Clerk has issued a dispensation to all parish councillors with the exception of Councillor Price so that the site allocation at The Lodge can be discussed. To be noted that Councillor Price is only known to fellow councillors in her official capacity as a councillor.

4.0 FINANCE Report

The RFO, Anita Maxwell gave the report. Issue re interim audit which has now been postponed to January.

4.1 To approve bank reconciliation and corresponding bank statements

Postponed to January meeting due to late publication.

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

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

4.3 To note year to date accounts

Postponed to January meeting.

4.4 Report from the finance committee meeting and update on proposed precept for 2026/27

The Finance committee met on the 18th November and the RFO will send out a detailed budget report to all councillors when completed for the next meeting.

4.5 Adoption of new draft Financial Regulations

The RFO has prepared a new draft set of financial regulations based on the NALC model code and amended to suit Hurst Green's needs.

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

The RFO, Anita Maxwell left the meeting.

5.0 COMMUNITY Activities and reports.

5.1 District and County Councillors reports

District Councillor Killeen gave her report and congratulated the council on getting our Neighbourhood Plan through the referendum stage. Still to be formally approved by RDC at full council.

District Councillor Barnes gave her report and noted that it was a concern that the refusal of Cooks Field appeal made no mention of it's situation in an AONB, now National Landscapes as a reason for refusal. Devolution comments need to be in by the 12th January.

Councillor Kirby-Green gave her report and noted that ESCC's finances were in a very poor state with a projected deficit of 55.8 million for 2026/27 for which a grant or loan will need to be sort from central government.

5.2 Neighbourhood Plan, progress report from steering group representatives

Councillor French gave the report.

Councillors French and Brown went to Bexhill Town Hall for the referendum count which came in as 177 for and 34 against, a 19% turnout. Still to be formally ratified by full Rother council after which the Neighbourhood Plan will officially be in place.

5.3 No agenda item listed

5.4 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report and reminded councillors of a meeting with Sussex Police on the 2nd December re local dog attack issue on livestock.

5.5 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Clerk has emailed to councillors upon receipt.

Correspondence rec'd re concerns with Station Road parking.

5.6 Urgent issues requiring attention

Councillor Levine asked the council if it was happy for her to spend £150 for training on best practise re appraisals from Paul Richards as recommended by Trevor Leggo. This was approved..

6.0 TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS, report

Issues with new A21 layout at Ashdene Garage with incorrect use of crossovers amongst the concerns.

The Clerk has asked National Highways to provide more info re the Station Road junction improvement works.

6.1 ESCC – Urban Grass cutting options for 2026/27

After debate it was agreed that for this year the council would go for Option One, the two free cuts.

7.0 PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS

Councillor Browne has mowed Stage Field, but hole in the ground still an issue.

Very large tree bough down in Drewetts field beside lower goal post. Clerk thinks it is off of a tree owned by adjoining landowner. Removal to be investigated.

7.1 Community Orchard update and finishing of planned works.

Councillor Johnson-Cloves noted that the Council should proceed with the works as already outlined.

7.2 Tree works in Drewetts Field

To be deferred to January meeting.

8.0 PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES

8.1 Village Maintenance

Gavin has refixed the fence around the football area in Lodge Field and started clearing up around the bus shelter. Councillor Pakenham asked if the bench by the bus stop on the opposite side of the road could go on the works schedule as it urgently needs the vegetation cutting back. Clerk will put in request for this to be done.

8.2 To discuss Devolution and transfer of assets, Village Car Park and Stage Field.

It was unanimously agreed to proceed with obtaining the freehold to Stage Field.

After much debate it was agreed not to proceed with obtaining the freehold to the car park, 3-4 against.

9.0 PLANNING - Report from the Planning Committee

Councillor French gave the report.

9.1 To consider recent proposed potential site allocations in the village

Councillor Price declared an interest and left the room as a resident at one of the sites.

As a major potential planning development it was agreed that a working party should be set up to look into this once the site allocations have been formally approved by RDC at their January meeting..

10.0 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Items to be emailed to the Clerk.

11.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 27th January 2026 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.28pm.

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 January 2026