

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th January 2026 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.50pm after extended public consultation time.

Present:- Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor Daly, Councillor French, Councillor Johnson-Cloves, Councillor Levine, Councillor Price, Councillor Ralph and District Councillor Barnes.

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

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Councillor Pakenham, District Councillor Killeen and County Councillor Kirby-Green.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: -

To sign as a correct record the minutes of the two meetings held on Tuesday the 25^h November 2025.

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

Unanimously approved.

2.1 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Members of the Finance committee to sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th November 2025.

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

Unanimously approved by finance committee.

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.

4.1 To approve December and January expenditure as listed on the schedule

RFO noted that this included the annual grant to the Village Hall of £1,000 under LGA72 s137

Resolution to approve payments proposed by Councillor Price 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 Price. **Unanimously approved.**

4.4 To note current earmarked reserves and approve any transfers

Noted..

4.5 To approve precept application of £75,623

After debate it was agreed to keep the precept down to £70,000 by taking the rest from reserves for 2026/27.

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

5.0 COMMUNITY Activities and reports.

5.1 District and County Councillors reports

District Councillor Barnes gave her report.

The RFO, Anita Maxwell left the meeting

5.2 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report.

5.3 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Clerk has emailed to councillors upon receipt.

Correspondence rec'd re concerns with fly tipping in Burgh Wood around Coronation Gardens entrance.

5.4 Urgent issues requiring attention

The Cricket Club are concerned re mole activity in Drewetts Field. To be put on next agenda.

Further dogs attacks reported with one sheep killed. Invite Sussex Police to another meeting.

Councillor Browne expressed concern re the new Ashdene A21 improvements with vehicles routinely abusing and misusing the new layout.

6.0 TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS, report

Large pothole outside St John's Lodge, Burgh Hill. To be reported.

Also continuing pothole issues at Silverhill even after repairs done with patching work not lasting longer than around three months.

A21 junction improvements with the A265 are causing concern for local residents who expressed their concerns in public consultation time and noted that they had not been consulted on the plans.

National Highways to be contacted to arrange a meeting.

7.0 PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS

Vandalism has been reported in Lodge Field, believed to be confined to the five-bar gate between the toddler and junior areas. Councillor Johnson-Cloves will investigate.

Councillor Barnes left the meeting.

7.1 Community Orchard update and finishing of planned works.

Councillor Brown gave the report. Waiting for an improvement in the weather to finish of the works as field is waterlogged.

7.2 To consider quotes for tree works in Drewetts Field

Councillor Browne has approached a local tree surgeon for a quote and Councillor French will ask another.

8.0 PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES

8.1 Village Maintenance

The bus shelter work has been completed. To look at painting in the summer. Next job to clear around bench on opposite side of the A21 at the other bus stop.

8.2 Corner Garden maintenance and potential sponsorship (Cllr. Daly)

Councillor Daly gave the presentation and background information.. It was agreed that this was a good idea with 'Planters' willing to take on the Corner Garden.

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

8.3 Proposal: Installation of Planters and Planter Benches to Enhance the Village Environment (Cllr. Johnson-Cloves)

Councillor Johnson-Cloves gave the presentation which is essentially a project to give people and businesses the opportunity to sponsor a planter in the village.

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

8.4 Proposed village flagpole (Cllr. Johnson-Cloves)

To be sited in Lodge Field. Proposed by Councillor Johnson-Cloves and seconded by Councillor Browne. **Unanimously supported.**

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.

It was agreed to set up a working party and call a meeting for the 7th February to discuss this issue and look at a public exhibition to assess public opinion.

Councillor Price rejoined the meeting.

The press and public are excluded for the next agenda item due to the sensitive and confidential nature of the item to be discussed.

9.2 Former community shop – report and to consider dilapidations offer as recommended by the working party

Separately minuted and sealed due to the confidential and commercially sensitive nature of the business discussed.

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 24th February 2026 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.34pm.

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 24th February 2026