

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24th February 2026 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.48pm after extended public consultation time.

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

2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Councillor French, the RFO, Anita Maxwell and District Councillor Killeen.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: -

To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 27^h January 2026. Proposed by Councillor Daly and seconded by Councillor Johnson-Cloves.

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 Pakenham declared an interest in agenda item 9.2 as owner of the site.

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.

The Chair moved agenda items 5.1 and 8.2 up the agenda to be discussed next.

5.1 District and County Councillors reports

District Councillor Barnes gave her report.

County Councillor Kirby-Green gave her report.

8.2 To consider applying for Asset of Community Value status for the Royal George Public House

After debate Councillor Brown suggested that the Telephone Exchange and Burgh Wood should also be added to the register.

This was proposed by Councillor Daly and seconded by Councillor Johnson-Cloves.

It was **unanimously** resolved to add the Royal George Public House and Burgh Wood to the Asset of Community Value register and by a **majority vote** (2 abstentions) to add the Telephone Exchange to the register.

4.0 FINANCE Report

The Clerk gave the RFO's report in her absence.

4.1 To approve February expenditure as listed on the schedule

Resolution to approve payments proposed by Councillor Johnson-Cloves and seconded by Councillor Ralph. **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 Ralph.

Unanimously approved.

4.4 Interim Internal Audit Report - Jan 26

This was noted and action plan to be drawn up by the Clerk to reach Assertion 10 target by the 1st April 2026.

5.0 **COMMUNITY Activities and reports.**

5.1 District and County Councillors reports

Moved up the agenda and discussed after 3.1

5.2 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report.

i) Assertion 10 compliance – work to be done on this to meet the required target before the end of the financial year. Some progress has been made.

5.3 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Clerk has emailed to councillors upon receipt.

- i) Potholes, Silverhill - Ongoing issue with potholes on the Bodiam Road and the number of potholes on Silverhill some of which are marked up for repair, others not and the difficulty of distinguishing on the interactive map which have been flagged or not in a short section of road.

5.4 Urgent issues requiring attention

None to report which are not on the agenda..

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

6.1 A21/265 junction improvements

Continuing issues with the works on the junction with mixed feelings being reported from residents. The Council will continue to monitor and action when possible.

Should be noted that one area of concern has been misrepresented as yellow lines have not been proposed for all of Station Road, just a few selected short runs most of which are already prohibited parking in law.

Councillors Barnes and Kirby-Green left the meeting.

7.0 **PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS**

There have been issues of vandalism in Lodge Field with the new play equipment and wooden planks have been torn down and destroyed. A local resident has fixed this without cost which is most appreciated by the Council and shows community spirit at its best. The current CCTV SIMS do not record for a long enough period to capture the vandals at work but new SIM cards are now available to install.

7.1 Community Orchard update and finishing of planned works.

Councillor Brown gave the report. Still waiting for an improvement in the weather to finish off the works. Quotes to be sort for a concrete base for the new seat..

7.2 To consider quotes for tree works in Drewetts Field

To be postponed to the next meeting

7.3 To consider options re repair of Youth shelter in Lodge Field

Agreed to have the handyman clean and look at replacement options for the Perspex panel and to paint in the summer.

7.4 To consider further mole treatment in Drewetts Field

Councillor Browne proposed that treatment should be carried out and this was seconded by Councillor Johnson-Cloves. **Unanimously supported.**

Clerk to contact the owner of the neighbouring field to see if they would also consider mole treatment.

8.0 **PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES**

8.1 Village Maintenance - No update.

8.2 To consider applying for Asset of Community Value status for the Royal George Public House.

Moved up the agenda and discussed after 5.1

8.3 To consider repair /replacement costs for village sign and damaged bin.

Clerk has already authorized repair of bin at a cost of £60 due to its dangerous condition and possibility of door being removed.

Councillor Johnson-Cloves reported on the village sign and options available. Will ask the RFO what CiL money is left to be used towards it.

Councillor Johnson-Cloves proposed that the Station Road village sign should be repaired and was seconded by Councillor Browne. This was **unanimously supported**.

Two more quotes to be obtained if possible, to see if there is a cheaper option available.

9.0 PLANNING - Report from the Planning Committee

Councillor Daly gave the report.

9.1 To set date for EGM re comments on RDC Local plan and potential site allocations in the village

17th March agreed date for EGM starting at 7.30pm in the village hall.

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

Councillor Pakenham declared an interest in this agenda item as the owner of the premises but stayed with his wife to address the Council.

Councillor Brown left the meeting.

9.2 Former community shop - report and to consider legal advice and costs re dilapidations offer

Councillor Pakenham and his wife addressed the Council. Due to their presence other items not discussed. First verbal offer made as agreed at the meeting on the 27th January. No response given.

Councillor Levine left the meeting.

9.3 Motion: That the Council approves the updated Job Descriptions for the Parish Clerk and the RFO and the Contract of Employment for the RFO. (Cllr. Daly)

Councillor Daly and the staffing working party have produced job descriptions and a Contract of Employment in line with standard models and asked the Council if they were happy to approve them Proposed by Councillor Daly and seconded by Councillor Johnson-Cloves. **Majority decision to support this** with any changes approved at a later date.

10.0 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

To revisit taking on the public car park.

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 17th March 2026 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.30pm with the next full meeting being held on Tuesday the 31st March 2026 at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.40pm.

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 31st March 2026