

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 31st March 2026 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 8.06pm after extended public consultation time.

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

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

2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Councillor Daly, 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 meetings held on Tuesday the 24^h February 2026 and Tuesday the 17th March 2026.

Proposed by Councillor Johnson-Cloves 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.*

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 gave the report.

4.1 To approve March expenditure as listed on the schedule

Resolution to approve payments proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Joihnson-Cloves. **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 Levine.

Unanimously approved.

4.4 To note current earmarked reserves and approve any transfers

Noted.

4.5 To approve the annual Risk Assessment

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

Unanimously resolved to approve.

4.6 To consider the grant request from Hurst Green Cricket club for £400

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

Unanimously resolved to approve under LGA72, s137.

4.7 To consider a grant request from Wild about Etchingam and Hurst Green

A request for £600 has been rec'd to cover half the costs of the Upper Rother River monitoring project. A presentation was given in public consultation time.

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

Unanimously resolved to approve under LGA72, s137

5.0 **COMMUNITY Activities and reports.**

Councillor Levine reported on the successful children's Halloween event held in the Royal George.

The RFO Anita Maxwell left the meeting.

5.1 District and County Councillors reports

District Councillor Barnes gave her report.

Councillor Barnes requested that any issues re Bantham Farm should be reported to her and noted that there was no residential status for the property.

Concern over new Government proposals that new developments under 9 houses should be decided by Planning Officers and not referred to the Planning committee.

5.2 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report.

5.3 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Clerk covered in her report under agenda item 5.2

5.4 Urgent issues requiring attention

Councillor Johnson-Cloves, in his capacity as Village Hall committee member raised concerns over the parish council document storage as the village hall needed access to at least half the stationary cupboard storage. Clerk to deal with.

Also noted that storage under the stage was being used as council storage. Councillors to deal with.

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

Noted under Clerk's report in Councillor Daly's absence.

Clerk asked Councillor Levine if she could provide a photo of the pothole in Burgh Hill Lane so it could be reported to ESCC.

6.1 A21/265 junction improvements

Nothing to report, work ongoing..

7.0 **PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS**

7.1 Community Orchard update and finishing of planned works.

Councillor Brown gave the report. Has been contacted by Defra re Community Orchard project.

Clerk to contact Hallmark signs re poor sate of the signs they provided with ink running and therefore illegible.

Bench delivery due 1st April.

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

To be postponed to the next meeting

8.0 **PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES**

8.1 Village Maintenance

The maintenance worker plans to carry out work in the village on Wednesdays

8.2 To consider applying for Asset of Community Value status for the Social Club and 55 London Road.

It was agreed to apply for an ACV for the social club but leave No. 55 for a future meeting.

9.0 PLANNING - Report from the Planning Committee

Councillor French gave the report.

9.1 To note Contract of Employment signed by RFO

Noted.

9.2 Motion to adopt IT policy

Proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Price

Unanimously resolved to adopt the policy.

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 legal advice and costs re dilapidations offer

Minuted as a separate item due to confidential and commercially sensitive nature of the item 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 28th April 2026 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.30pm.

Distribution of Minutes: -

All Parish Councillors

Parish Council Noticeboard

Parish Council Website

ESCC Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green

RDC Councillor Barnes.

RDC Councillor Killeen

Signed

Dated