

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th April 2026 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 8.00pm after extended public consultation time.

1.0 Present:- Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor Daly, Councillor French, Councillor Levine, Councillor Price, Councillor Ralph and County Councillor Kirby-Green. The Clerk and the RFO, Anita Maxwell were in attendance along with eight members of the public.

2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Councillor Johnson-Cloves, Councillor Pakenham, District Councillor Barnes and District Councillor Killeen.

The Chair, Graham Browne addressed the meeting re the passing of local resident and businessman Richard Barnes who had been a great patron and supporter of the village.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: -

To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 31st March 2026. Proposed by Councillor Levine and seconded by Councillor Ralph.

Unanimously approved.

2.1 For Staffing Committee, to sign as a correct record the minutes of the staffing committee meeting held on Tuesday 21st April 2026.

Proposed by Councillor Daly and seconded by Councillor Levine. Approved by Councillor Ralph as the only other member of the 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.*

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.

The Chair, Graham Browne addressed the meeting re his intention to remove agenda item 9.6 from the meeting due to time pressures and to set up a working party or EGM to discuss this instead.

4.0 FINANCE Report

The RFO gave the report.

4.1 To approve April expenditure as listed on the schedule

Resolution to approve payments proposed by Councillor Ralph and seconded by Councillor Daly.

Unanimously approved.

4.2 To note year to date accounts

Noted.

4.3 To approve bank reconciliations and corresponding bank statements

To be postponed to the next meeting as not all councillors had rec'd the documentation.

4.4 To note current earmarked reserves and approve any transfers

Noted.

4.5 To consider the Audit report if available

The Audit did not take place as the auditor's car broke down on route. New date set for May.

5.0 COMMUNITY Activities and reports.

The RFO Anita Maxwell left the meeting.

5.1 District and County Councillors reports

County Councillor Kirby-Green gave her report.

Noted that the RDC monitoring officer has now left after a short time in post.

5.2 Clerk's report

The Clerk gave her report and included agenda item 5.3 in this.

5.3 Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

Clerk covered in her report under agenda item 5.2

Councillor Kirby-Green left the meeting.

5.4 Urgent issues requiring attention

Concern raised about the rubbish dumping in Burgh Wood which was ongoing.

6.0 TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS, report

Issues re footpath 33 discussed under agenda item 5.2

6.1 A21/265 junction improvements

Clerk asked to contact National Highways to arrange a site meeting to discuss ongoing issues with street furniture and for a progress report.

7.0 PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS

Clerk has been contacted by RoSPA re Lodge Field's annual Risk Assessment at a reduced rate.

Councillors agreed to proceed with this.

7.1 Community Orchard update and finishing of planned works.

Concrete pad for bench to be installed in May and deer guards put up as soon as the ground conditions allow.

7.2 To consider quotes for tree works in Drewetts Field

To be postponed to the next meeting.

Noted that large fallen bough by football goal has been removed and the dangerous tree on the lane next to Drewetts has been felled.

It was agreed to get the local blacksmith to repair the fitting on the pedestrian gate into Drewetts Field.

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

Agreed to get quotes for replacing the damaged panels.

8.0 PLANNING - Report from the Planning Committee

Councillor French gave the report.

9.0 PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES

9.1 Village Maintenance

It was agreed to get the handyman to remove the 'T' bar on the zip wire in Lodge field until the main supporting structure can be refitted. Also agreed that he should clear up around the memorial bench bus stop and clean the graffiti off of the bench in Drewetts field.

9.2 To consider applying for Assets of Community Value, update

Ongoing.

9.3 Assertion 10 compliance update

Councillor French read out a document re the legal status of Assertion 10.
Clerk noted that the council was almost there but still needed to meet some of the IT criteria re emails and website which was actively being worked on by Councillor Ralph.

9.4 To adopt the Terms of Reference for the staffing committee as approved by the committee Proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Brown. **Unanimously supported.**

9.5 To resolve to adopt the document retention policy

To be postponed to the next meeting as not all councillors had had time to review.

The Chair having previously removed the following agenda item 9.6 allowed Councillor Price to speak on a related topic and therefore, the press and public are excluded for the next agenda item due to the sensitive and confidential nature of the item to be discussed.

9.6 Former community shop – report and to consider legal advice and costs re dilapidations offer and motion to Implement Council’s action plan

Minuted as a separate item due to confidential nature of the item discussed.

It was agreed by the council that a separate EGM should be held to deal with this agenda item and that all councillors should be able to attend. Looking at either the 11th or 12th May.

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 the AGM due to be held on Tuesday 26th May 2026 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.20pm.

Distribution of Minutes: -

All Parish Councillors

Parish Council Noticeboard

Parish Council Website

ESCC Councillor Mark Ashdown

RDC Councillor Barnes.

RDC Councillor Killeen

Signed

Cllr. Graham Browne, Chair

Dated

26th May 2026

