

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on Tuesday 26th May 2026 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm after public consultation

Present: - Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor French, Councillor Johnson-Cloves, Councillor Price, Councillor Ralph, District Councillor Barnes and District Councillor Killeen. The Clerk was in attendance along with four members of the public.

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Councillor Brown, Councillor Levine, Councillor Pakenham, County Councillor Ashdown and the RFO Anita Maxwell.

The Chair, Graham Browne announced that Councillor Daly had resigned from the Council.

2.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

2.1 Election of Chairperson and signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillor Price proposed Councilor Browne and was seconded by Councillor Johnson-Cloves. Councillor Browne agreed to stand and this was unanimously supported and therefore Councillor Browne was elected as Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

2.2 Election of Vice Chairperson and signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillor Johnson-Cloves. proposed Councilor French and was seconded by Councillor Price. Councillor French agreed to stand and this was unanimously supported and therefore Councillor French was elected as Vice Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3.0 Election of Committees and Representatives

Due to there being three councillors short the Chair noted that only some of the vacancies could be allocated and the rest would need to be postponed to the next meeting.

- a) Playing Fields, i) Stage Field, ii) Lodge Field, ii) Drewetts Field
 - i) Councillors Browne and Johnson-Cloves
 - ii) Councillor French
 - iii) To allocate at the next meeting
- b) Other Parish Green Spaces, tree and Environmental issues
Councillor Johnson-Cloves agreed to take on this role.
- c) Footpaths & Roads
To be removed from the list and left for all councillors to report as necessary.
- d) Community Representatives
To be removed from the list.
- e) Representative to Rother Association of Local Councils
Councillor Price, backup needs to be allocated.
- f) Representatives to East Sussex ALC (2)
Councillor Price, second rep to be allocated at the next meeting.
- g) Finance committee, election of members and Chair
Councillors Browne, Johnson-Cloves, Price and Ralph.
- h) Staffing committee, election of members and Chair
Agreed as only recently set up to leave and look at members at the next meeting.
Councillor Pakenham has expressed an interest.

- i) Planning Committee, election of members and Chair
Councillor French (agreed to Chair if required) and Councillor Ralph.
Other members to be decided.

4.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: -

To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on the 28th April and the EGM held on Thursday 14th May 2026.

Both sets proposed by Councillor Johnson-Cloves and seconded by Councillor Price.

Unanimously approved.

5.0 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.

5.1 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.

6.0 FINANCE Report

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

6.1 To approve the annual insurance for the year 2026-2027

Resolution to approve renewal quote for one year and to look into alternative provision next year.

Proposed by Councillor Price and seconded by Councillor French. **Unanimously resolved to support.**

6.2 To approve May's expenditure as listed on the schedule

Resolution to approve payments proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Price.

Unanimously approved.

Councillor Johnson-Cloves proposed the motion below,

'This council resolves that the Chair, Graham Browne is authorized to sign the document releasing £26,250 in full and final settlement under the lease obligations of the former community shop which the council handed back on the 1st May 2024 and which recognizes the council's dilapidation responsibilities of £62,250 inclusive of VAT under the terms of the lease'.

This was seconded by councillor Price and it was **unanimously resolved to approve.**

6.3 To note year to date accounts

Not available so postponed to the next meeting.

6.4 To approve bank reconciliations and corresponding bank statements

Not available so postponed to the next meeting

6.5 To note current earmarked reserves and approve any transfers

Not available so postponed to the next meeting.

6.6 To consider grant request of £1,000 towards upkeep of the churchyard under LGA 72 s.125(6)

Proposed by Councillor Johnson-Cloves and seconded by Councillor French. **Unanimously resolved to support.**

6.7 To consider a grant to East Sussex Vision Support under LGA 72 s.137

Not supported.

7.0 **COMMUNITY Activities and reports.**

7.1 District and County Councillors reports

District Councillor Barnes gave her report.

District Councillor Killeen gave her report.

Noted that RDC are now working with the ESCC monitoring officer re issues reported to them.

Most of the new Planning portal issues have now been resolved.

Councillor Johnson-Cloves reported that an email to the new County Councillor Mark Ashdown had not yet been responded to.

7.2 Clerk's report including Parish Correspondence and local resident issues

The Clerk gave her report and noted any resident issues that had not already been circulated.

7.3 Urgent issues requiring attention

The village hall management committee had contacted the Chair re Sue Endean's leaving event and asked if the Council wished to contribute?

Councillor French proposed a sum of £100 and this was seconded by Councillor Ralph.

Unanimously supported. To be put on the next agenda to be formally approved.

8.0 **TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS, report**

8.1 A21/265 junction improvements

Discussed under public consultation.

Concern raised by residents that design based on old photographic evidence and insufficient site visits made for a true evaluation.

The council still wants an on-site meeting but believes this may achieve better results post installation.

9.0 **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.

9.1 Community Orchard update and finishing of planned works.

Councillor Johnson-Cloves reported that all tree guards are now in place but 15 trees appear to be dead. Councillor Brown has requested, via the Clerk, that that the Lodge Field working party should meet re any teething issues. Agreed.

9.2 To set up a working party re Drewett's Field regeneration

Councillors Browne, French, Johnson-Cloves and Ralph agreed to form a working party along with members of the Hurst Green Cricket Club to move this forward.

10.0 **PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES**

10.1 Motion, 'to re-adopt Standing Orders

Proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Johnson-Cloves. **Unanimously** resolved to support.

10.2 Motion, 'set up working party to review parish policies and procedures

Postponed to the next meeting.

10.3 Report from the Planning Committee

Councillor French gave the report.

10.4 Village Maintenance report and requests

Handyman has circulated photos re work done including graffiti removal in Drewetts Field and vegetation removal from the bus stop on the A21.

Works required (weather permitting) painting of bus stop shelter with timber preservative and painting of the youth shelter with smooth black hammerite.

General tidy around village.

Local resident volunteered to help re vegetation clearance and the Council agreed to approach the handyman to see if the resident could work with him re this.

10.5 To consider applying for Assets of Community Value, update

Councillor Barnes suggested that the Old Court House and Social Club should be added to the list.

District Councillors Barnes and Killeen left the meeting.

10.6 Assertion 10 compliance update

Steady progress has been made now need to finalize transfer of clerk's email and documents to new system and move over the three councillors to the new email provider.

10.7 To resolve to adopt the document retention policy

Proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Johnson-Cloves. **Unanimously** resolved to adopt.

10.8 To set up a Parish online Diary (Cllr. French)

Standing Orders suspended for this agenda item as no supporting paper presented.

Proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Browne. **Unanimously** resolved to support this.

11.0 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Items to be emailed to the Clerk.

12.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The RFO has emailed to ask the Council to consider bringing the meeting forward as the Audit papers need to be submitted by the end of the normal meeting date. Councillors felt that the paperwork could be prepared in advance and submitted on the night of the meeting if approved. having previously been circulated to review.

Therefore, the next Council meeting is still to be held on Tuesday 30th June 2026 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

12.1 To set date for the 2027 Annual Parish Assembly

Councillor French requested that the date for next year's Annual Assembly should be set now to avoid any clashes and make sure as many councillors as possible could attend.

It was agreed to set the APA for the 23rd April 2027.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Distribution of Minutes: -

All Parish Councillors

Parish Council Noticeboard

Parish Council Website

ESCC Councillor Mark Ashdown

RDC Councillor Barnes.

RDC Councillor Killeen

Signed

Cllr. Derek French, Vice-Chair

Dated

30th June 2026