HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th July 2026 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 8.00pm after delayed Planning Committee meeting and public consultation.

Present: - Councillor Brown, Councillor French, Councillor Pakenham, Councillor Price, District Councillor Barnes, District Councillor Killeen and County Councillor Ashdown.
The Clerk and RFO, Anita Maxwell were in attendance. No members of the public in attendance.

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Councillor Browne, Councillor Levine, Councillor Johnson-Cloves and Councillor Ralph.

Councillor French as Vice -Chair chaired the meeting in Councillor Browne's absence and welcomed Councillor Ashdown to his first meeting.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: -
To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 30th June 2026.

Proposed by Councillor Pakenham and seconded by Councillor French.
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, Anita Maxwell gave her report and noted that due to IT issues she had been unable to provide all information.
4.1 To approve bank reconciliation and corresponding bank statements
Deferred to the next meeting.

4.2 To approve expenses and payments for July as itemized on the schedule
Resolution to approve payments proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Pakenham. **Unanimously supported.**

4.3 To approve payment of clerk's SLCC membership
Proposed by Councillor French and seconded by Councillor Brown. **Unanimously supported.**

4.4 To note year to date accounts
Information not available therefore postponed to the next meeting.

4.5 To note current earmarked reserves and approve any transfers
Postponed to the next meeting.
Clerk noted that £20,000 had been transferred between accounts back in April.

4.6 To approve the fixed asset register
To be postponed to the next meeting.

4.7 To consider outsourcing payroll
The RFO gave a background report into this as many parishes outsource payroll and the RFO noted due to the increasing complexities involved and to ensure continuity of the service outsourcing should be considered and provided a quote of £288 per annum for this service was a known provider.
Councillor Brown suggested that this should be a decision for the Finance committee.
To be investigated further and put on future agenda.

The RFO, Anita Maxwell left the meeting.

5.0 COMMUNITY Activities and reports.
5.1 District and County Councillors reports
District Councillor Killeen gave her report which included an update on devolution and the Rother Draft Local Plan.
District Councillor Barnes gave her report.
County Councillor Ashdown gave his report noting that he was looking in depth at ESCC's contract with Balfour Beatty.

Councillor Barnes left the meeting.

5.2 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.
Noted RALC survey to be completed and request from AiRS to attend a meeting to speak about housing needs.

5.3 Urgent issues requiring attention
No additional items to those on the agenda except to note that the Clerk is waiting to hear back from RDC re the parish councillor vacancy.

6.0 TRANSPORT, ROADS & FOOTPATHS, report
Councillor Ashdown is looking into the possibilities of getting volunteers to assist with grass verge cutting throughout the parishes. Limited response as yet from the parishes.

6.1 A21/265 junction improvements
Councillor Brown suggested that the Council should approach East Sussex Highways to see it they would independently review the finished A21/265 junction improvements and report back to the Council on their findings. Clerk to contact ESCC to see if this is a possibility.
Councillor Brown expressed concern over the aesthetics of the large grey control box sited near to our listed Drinking Fountain and the visual effect on the surroundings.

6.2 Speedwatch
To be postponed to the next meeting.

Councillor Price left the meeting.

7.0 PLAYING & STAGE FIELDS
7.1 Lodge field – Risk Assessment and actions required
To be postponed to the next meeting.
Clerk to chase up Hallmark signs re condition of the sign for the Community Orchard
.
7.2 Devolution – update
Rother has now turned down the Council's request for the freehold to Stage Field.

8.0 PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES

8.1 Report from the Planning Committee

Councillor French gave the report.

8.2 Village Maintenance report and requests

Clerk reported that painting of the youth shelter had started and the handyman had asked If the council would like the entrance gates and waste bin painted at the same time? Councillors agreed provided there was enough paint left over to do them.

8.3 Assets of Community Value, update

To be postponed to the next meeting.

8.4 Assertion 10 compliance update

Councillor Ralph is away so progress has slowed in his absence.

8.5 RALC's proposal re Local Government reorganization and local engagement

Clerk to re send the email.

8.6 Councillor Training and Risk Assessment training

Councillors not sure if this is necessary. The Clerk will ask the RFO to send more details of the suggested sessions.

9.0 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Items to be emailed to the Clerk.

10.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council meeting is to be held on Tuesday 25th August 2026 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 7.45pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.03pm.

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 25th August 2026