

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held in the Village Hall on Friday the 5th May 2017 at 8.00 pm

Present: - Councillor Browne (Chairman), Councillor Duddrge, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Janes, Councillor Johnson, Councillor Wright, District Councillor Prochak, and County Councillor Barnes. Twenty seven members of the Public and the Clerk were in attendance.

1.0 Welcome and Apologies for absence:- Councillor Browne welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Assembly in its new format with themed displays organised by Councillor Wright and gave apologies for Councillor Funnell, Councillor Peacock and the RFO David Hilbourne who were unable to attend.

Also in attendance were representatives from Burghwood House, Comedy Capers, Ashdene Garage, Hurst Green Brownies, Hurst Green School and Holy Trinity Church.

2.0 Approval and Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly on the 12th April 2016

Proposal to approve the minutes was made by Councillor Wright and seconded by Councillor Harrison.

3.0 Matters arising from the Minutes:- None.

4.0 Chairman's Report and Aims for the Council:-

Councillor Browne read out his report. Attached.

5.0 Report from Responsible Financial Officer

In the RFO's David Hilbourne's absence no report given.

The Chair, Councillor Browne took the opportunity to introduce the new Vicar, Annette Hawkins to those present and invited her to speak as she was unable to stay for the rest of the meeting.

The Vicar wanted everyone to know that she wanted to make a contribution to the Village and was holding regular services in the Church and meetings in the community shop, 9.30am-11.30am every other Thursday. The Vicar has already met with Huw Merriman MP and walked with him from the School to the Church to illustrate to him the impact of the traffic on the A21 for pedestrians.

The Vicar thanked the Parish Council for their support with the churchyard and asked for volunteers from the Village to help with the ongoing maintenance.

6.0 Report from County Councillor Barnes: -

The Chair introduced Councillor Barnes, who has just been re-elected as our East Sussex County Councillor, who gave his report.

Councillor Barnes also gave his thanks to all and noted that he would work for all residents, those that voted for him and those that did not! He also thanked the Council and Clerk for keeping him up to date with local events and issues as he now has a very large area to cover.

Councillor Barnes reported that there were many areas of concern especially the national debt and lack of available money with no general grant from the national Government by 2020 to County Councils leaving them to survive on Council and Business tax. Still waiting to see how everything will actually be allocated.

Still an urgent need to improve broadband and the Council is about to negotiate its third contract with BT to improve speeds. Central Government has just agreed that fibre can be hung from poles rather than go underground which should help as this is much cheaper and quicker to do.

The Council is treating roads as capital assets and therefore can use capital money to maintain them but they face real problems with the frail elderly in East Sussex so they are now treating health and

social care as one and working towards a seamless system of care. East Sussex are only one of four in the country to trial this.

There are problems with funding for schools which is still to be sorted out as the first draft which would have been difficult for Hurst Green, was dropped due to the election but still need to make sure the second draft will not penalise Hurst Green.

Councillor Barnes thanked the Hurst Green Action group for all their tireless work on footpath 23 which is still ongoing and noted that he will be working for the duration of his term to get the A21 back under the control of East Sussex.

Council tax will go up by 5% this year but 3% of that is ring fenced for Adult Social Care.

7.0 District Councillor's Report:-

District Councillor Prochak's Report:-

Councillor Prochak, District Councillor for Salehurst and Robertsbridge, Bodiam and Hurst Green congratulated Councillor Wright on the new format of the Annual Parish Assembly.

Councillor Prochak noted that everyone has put up their Council tax, Rother by 3% having already made 5.4 million in cuts in the last year with reduced staffing, shared services with other authorities, cuts to services and devolving other services to parishes. Sadly, at the same time demand is going up with even more homeless.

Councillor Prochak reported that consultation is ongoing with a campaign to get Bexhill its own Town Council which is currently run by Rother and a second consultation about DASA, which will affect Hurst Green is taking place. Although the Foundry Close application has been turned down it is likely to come back which is why having a Neighbourhood Plan, supported by local people, will be so important for the Village.

Councillor Prochak also reported that currently Rother does not enforce parking infringements but has a working party looking into this which they would ask East Sussex to action.

On a positive note Rother will now allow people to speak at the planning meetings provided ten people raise a petition. This has proved beneficial for both parties as councillors can ask them questions as well.

Issue with the Waste management contract which will be ending sooner than anticipated so this will need addressing.

Councillor Prochak thanked the Parish Council and Clerk for their support.

District Councillor Browne's Report:- Cllr. Browne endorsed Councillor Prochak's report and had nothing further to add.

8.0 Community Award presentation

The Chairman gave a brief background explanation of this award to those present.

This year's recipient is Robin Cruse, which was a unanimous decision by the Council in recognition of all his work for the Village especially in keeping the Corner Garden in such good condition.

The Parish Council Certificate of Commendation and trophy was handed over by the Chair to Robin Cruse.

9.0 Questions from parishioners:-

No questions received.

The Chair announced a recess at 8.50pm for refreshments and a chance to visit local groups with displays set up in the hall before recommencing the meeting at 9.20pm for other community reports.

10.0 Reports from the Community:-

Report from Hurst Green Brownies:-

Report given by Sue Eyres. Attached

Report from the Village Hall:-

Report given by Councillor Johnson. Attached.

Presentation by Burghwood House representatives

Burghwood House are trying to raise funds to improve the outside faculties and rear garden access and gave those present a presentation of their ideas.

Councillor Browne thanked everyone for their reports.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and Councillor Wright for all his work on the new format for the Annual Assembly and closed the meeting at 9:30pm.

**Signed:-
Chairman**

Dated: