

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in Hurst Green Village Hall on Tuesday 31st January 2017 starting at 8:00pm.

Present: - Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Cruse, Councillor Duddridge, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Janes, Councillor Johnson, Councillor Peacock, Councillor Wright and District Councillor Prochak .

The RFO, David Hilbourne and the Clerk were in attendance along with 4 members of the public.

1.0 Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Funnell and County Councillor Barnes.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting:-

To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 29th November 2016.

Minutes proposed by Councillor Cruse and seconded by Councillor Janes.

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.*

No interests declared.

4.0 Community Activities and reports:-

No reports rec'd.

4.1 Resolution to support a Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk resent out Councillor Browne's email from Richard Eastham of Feria with an initial outline plan plus their costs for the first year of overseeing the Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan to all councillors for their information prior to the meeting. It was noted that grant money would be available to cover a large part of the costs involved but that it would need a lot of input from local residents to achieve a successful plan.

After much discussion the Council **unanimously agreed to go forward with Feria to deliver a Neighbourhood Plan for Hurst Green.**

Councillor Browne suggested that there would need to be an initial open meeting to gather together a core group of helpers plus those willing to help out with specific areas of the plan.

Councillor Prochak noted that in Robertsbridge and Salehurst the Neighbourhood Plan had engendered a lot of community spirit.

Clerk to notify Feria and Rother District Council of Hurst Green's intent to proceed with a Plan.

5.0 Planning: -

The planning appeal lodged by Nigel and Nick Watts for **Bantham Farm** re change of use from B1 Art Studio to living accommodation, APP/U1430/W/16/3160183 (RR/2016/329/P2421) has been **Dismissed**.

5.1 RDC Planning decisions

RR/2016/3096/P - 51 London Road, Hurst Green TN19 7QP. Removal of condition 3 imposed on planning permission RR/2014/1545/P which requires creation of outdoor amenity space. **Granted**.

5.2 Current Applications

RR/2017/38/T - 8 Station Road, Ravenswood, Hurst Green, TN19 7PL. T1 - Monterey Pine - Fell. **Supported**.

RR/2016/3139/P - Silverhill House, Hurst Green TN19 7PU. Proposed vehicle crossover. **Supported**.

RR/2016/3030/P - Alma Cottage, London Road, Hurst Green TN19 7QS. Erection of garden room. (Part retrospective) **Already Granted**.

6.0 Finance/RFO's Report:-

Financial report given by the RFO, David Hilbourne.

The RFO asked for one or two Councillors to do the Annual Risk Assessment. Councillor Peacock agreed to do this.

6.1 Current financial position

Balance of accounts

Community Account (6752)	£9,568.70	as at 23 rd January 2017
Community Savings (6779)	£2,736.60	as at 23 rd January 2017
Renewals A/C (6760)	£10,074.14	as at 23 rd January 2017

These figures are the position as at the latest statements received as shown. They do not include monies received or paid away subsequently.

Direct Debit payments

None

Payments received

None.

6.2 Motion to approve invoices.

Unanimously approved.

6.3 Approval and issue of Cheques

Urgent cheques drawn and paid away

Copies of invoices re items below previously circulated via email to all Councillors.

Cheque No. 100730 - J Ellis, Clerk's Salary (Dec).	£437.46
Cheque No. 100731 - D Hilbourne, RFOs salary (Dec).	£125.33
Cheque No. 100732 - East Sussex Pension Scheme, re Clerk.	£153.93
Cheque No. 100733 - Glasdon, Bench Seats for A21, Drewetts and Lodge Fields.	£2899.39
Cheque No. 100734 - Robertsbridge Gdn Centre, Strimming of Lodge Field (4 mths).	£1106.00
Cheque No. 100735 - HMRC, remit PAYE collected.	£422.40
Cheque No. 100736 - Glasdon, Memorial plaque for one bench seat.	£84.14
Cheque No. 100737 - Pet Waste Solutions, clearance of dog bin waste for December.	£56.33

Cheques to be authorised for this meeting

Copies of invoices re items below previously circulated via email to all Councillors.

Cheque No. 100738 - J Ellis, Clerk's Salary (January).	£437.46
Cheque No. 100739 - D Hilbourne, RFOs salary (January).	£125.33
Cheque No. 100740 - East Sussex Pension Scheme, re Clerk.	£153.93
Cheque No. 100741 - SSALC, Local Council magazine.	£17.00
Cheque No. 100742 - Pet Waste Solutions, clearance of dog bin waste for January.	£56.33
Cheque No. 100743 - HG shop and Café, balance of account for Councillors meal (December).	£256.50
Cheque No. 100744 - Staples, stationery order.	£32.92

A resolution for approval is sought for present issue of Cheques.

Cheques proposed by Councillor Peacock and seconded by Councillor Janes.

6.4 Consideration of Precept working party report

The Clerk emailed the working party precept report from the 10th January to all councillors prior to the meeting for their consideration.

The RFO reported that there would be a carry forward from 2016/17 of approx. £18,000 which could be used to reduce the projected precept amount for 2017/18.

There was much discussion on the finer detail including funding for the Hurst Green Magazine which the RFO said could be accommodated within the existing projections.

6.5 Resolution to approve Precept for 2017-2018

It was **unanimously resolved to set the precept for 2017/18 at £37,060**. The Clerk will notify RDC.

The Chair, Graham Browne thanked David Hilbourne for all the work he had put into the financial report

6.6 Resolution to grant a donation of £1,500 to Holy Trinity Church Parochial Council under LGA 1972 s137

It was **unanimously resolved to approve a donation under s137 of £1,500** towards the costs of the asbestos removal from the Church.

6.7 Resolution to donate £50 to The Royal British Legion under LGA1972 s137

It was **unanimously resolved to approve a donation under s137 of £50** to the Royal British Legion.

6.8 Form for donation requests to the Parish Council.

To be postponed to the next meeting.

6.9 Resolution to approve annual increment for RFO as per contract.

The RFO explained the background to this and noted that the Clerk was already at the top of the incremental scale and was therefore not included in this motion.

It was **unanimously resolved to approve** the increment as per contract.

7.0 **Playing & Stage Fields**

The Parish Council has rec'd a request from Robertsbridge Cricket Club, supported by Hurst Green Cricket Club, to use Drewetts Field for a number of Saturday matches. David Hilbourne explained that the Parish Councillors were the trustees of the field from which Hurst Green Cricket Club leased their playing pitch.

Councillor Harrison said that he thought it would be useful if a parish councillor sat on the cricket club committee to help with good communications all round. All thought this a very good idea.

The Council unanimously agreed to this request.

Two quotes have been rec'd for the siting and fixing of the six benches already purchased, 4 for Lodge Field, a memorial bench for Ken Foster in Drewetts Field and the last for the back of the bus shelter on the A21. A large variation in the quotes one being for £1,168.64 the other for £640 (incl). Full spec not to hand so **Councillors unanimously agreed to go with the cheaper option provided the specs were similar.**

Clerk to check the details and email round to Councillors for confirmation.

7.1 Quotes for removal of mole infestation in Drewetts and Lodge Fields

Moles in both Drewetts and Lodge Fields are now a very serious problem. The Clerk has obtained 2 quotes with a third unwilling to tender. Both quotes were similar with one being for £560, the other £650. The later mentioned removing all of the soil residue whilst the first mentioned charging for lost traps.

After much discussion it was felt that the more expensive quote offered more value for money and Councillors unanimously opted for this quote however the Chair thought that another quote from the person who originally quoted for the job a year ago should be sort. Chair to contact.

7.2 Lodge Field, quotes for replacement fencing

Both the Chair and Councillor Janes reported that the post and rail fencing in Lodge Field surrounding the young people's play equipment should be replaced. The mesh was considered to be in good condition and could be retained. Clerk to arrange for quotes.

8.0 Footpaths, Transport & Roads Councillor Harrison noted that the potholes on the A265 by McMichael's Way had appeared again. Clerk to report.

Councillor Janes stated that contrary to Highways England's report the pedestrian crossing lights on the A21 did not pick up the presence of a mobility scooter. Councillors also noted an increase in litter on the A21 and the lights by the school which are still not working correctly. Clerk will report again.

Clerk will also chase up the 'Unsuitable for HGVs' sign that ESCC was going to put up at the entrance to Merriments Lane.

ESCC's Highway team have recently emailed parishes about an offer to supply and plant free wildflower bulbs in villages if parish councils would like some and specified the sites. Councillors thought that the grass area at the bottom of Ridgeway and small grass triangle at the start of Burgh Lane would benefit from this. Clerk to notify ESCC.

8.1 Update on Footpath 23 (off London Road by Jesses)

Matthew Harper from the Rights of Way Team (ESCC) has emailed the Council and other interested parties the proposed route of the path's diversion and Andrew Le Gresley asked for the Parish Council's initial response to the diversion proposed.

Much discussion on this with additional input from local residents. It was noted that the proposed route would open another access off of the A21 and was not acceptable in its current format.

Unanimously agreed that the diversion could not be considered until the official route and width is decided and fully reinstated. Diversion order is premature at this stage. Clerk to notify Andrew Le Gresley.

8.2 Letter rec'd re accident on A21, 11th March 2016

Huw Merriman MP is being canvassed by a local business man for improvements to the A21 and copied in the Parish Council on the letter he sent which outlined the serious nature and impact accidents on this road can have for local residents. Councillors discussed the contents of the letter and reiterated their support for any measures to improve road safety for all on the A21 and will continue to actively campaign on this issue as they have for many years.

9.00 **Notices and Correspondence:-**

Correspondence previously circulated via email.

An email has been rec'd re the siting of a Fire and Rescue van outside the Village Hall to promote safety issues. Councillors all in favour of this and suggested that the Clerk should see if he wanted to come to the village fete as well. The Clerk has already given him the Village Hall's contact details re parking.

9.1 Urgent issues requiring attention

Clerk reported that the 10th edition of Arnold Baker had just been published and requested permission to order a copy. RFO noted it was an essential tool for the Council. Unanimously agreed.

10.00 **Items for the next agenda:-**

Breakfast Club

Neighbourhood Plan

Items to be emailed to Clerk as necessary.

11.0 **Date and time of next Meeting:-**

The next meeting is on Tuesday 28th February 2017 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 8.00pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Distribution of Minutes: -

All Parish councillors.

Parish Council Noticeboard.

ESCC Councillor J. Barnes.

RDC Councillor S. Prochak.

Signed

Chairman

Dated