

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:- Councillor Browne (Chair), Councillor Brown, Councillor Duddridge, Councillor Janes, Councillor Peacock, County Councillor Barnes and District Councillor Prochak
The Clerk was in attendance along with three members of the public.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Brown to his first meeting.

1.0 Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Johnson, Councillor Wright and the RFO David Hilbourne.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting:-

To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 26th September 2017.

Minutes proposed by Councillor Janes and seconded by Councillor Duddridge.

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*

Councillor Janes declared an interest in agenda item 8.2 Hurst Green Community Shop as Duty Manager and Councillor Brown declared a possible interest in agenda item 10.00 if footpath 33 comes up as passes through his property.

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 Applications for filling the Council vacancy via co-opting.

No applications have been rec'd. Councillor Brown suggested putting the vacancies on the parish website.

5.0 Community Activities and reports:-

5.1 Neighbourhood Plan, progress report and to pass any necessary resolutions (Cllr. Janes)

Councillor Janes reported that the first steering group meeting was going to be arranged this week.

5.2 Use of redundant telephone box for defibrillator and to pass and) necessary resolutions in association with this (Cllr. Wright).

The Clerk had raised this issue at a recent RALC Clerks meeting and was told that planning would probably be needed as well as a power supply to heat the defibrillator cabinet if the telephone box was moved. It was suggested that Councillor Wright should be asked to speak to Etchingham Parish Council about their re-siting of the telephone box to house their defibrillator.

5.3 Parish response to ESCC Library Consultation (Cllr. Brown), see attached motions

Motions below proposed by Councillor Brown with supporting document emailed to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

Proposed Motion: *“That Hurst Green Parish Council is concerned at the accessibility and awareness of all current library services provided by East Sussex Libraries to residents of this Parish, and the subsequent low levels of engagement. This Council calls upon East Sussex Libraries to fulfill its statutory duty to encourage all adults and children, regardless of place of residence, to make full use of the library service, including its physical and digital offerings, by undertaking measures to significantly raise awareness of its services to residents of this Parish.”*

It was resolved to unanimously support this motion.

Proposed Motion: *“That Hurst Green Parish Council believes that the mobile library service provided by East Sussex County Council provides an essential service to residents of the Parish, which aids community cohesion by providing an interaction point with the County Council, as well as an accessible source of information, and that this must be maintained until such time that there is clear evidence that all residents are both able to, and would rather use a digital service.”*

It was resolved to unanimously support this motion with the changing of the word digital to alternative (last line) to read, would rather use an alternative service.

Proposed Motion: *“That Hurst Green Parish Council will respond to the East Sussex Libraries Consultation in accordance with the related resolved motion(s) and that once the outcome of the East Sussex Libraries Consultation is known, that Hurst Green Parish Council will, if required setup a working party to best manage the resource for local needs.”*

It was resolved to support this motion with a majority of 3 to 1.

Councillor Browne thanked Councillor Brown for a brilliant piece of work and was very impressed by the background work that had been put into this.

Councillor Peacock noted that there was an issue with knowing when the mobile service was going to visit and thinks that this lack of advertising has a lot to do with reported poor usage figures.

Councillor Barnes said that the real issue was that the County had insufficient funds for all its services and all areas are under pressure. Adult social care has ring fenced funding. He also noted that a good case could be argued for a fixed-point library in Robertsbridge.

Councillor Brown noted that everyone pays 1.2% of their council tax towards the Library Service.

Councillor Brown does not think the mobile service is advertised enough.

5.4 Siting of ‘spare’ bench

Councillor Browne explained that due to the Pakenham’s request for a wooden memorial bench there was now a spare composite bench for the Village. He suggested that it should be held back and then sited in Stage Field after the new entrance is completed as there is currently no seating in this field.

This was unanimously supported.

5.5 Maintenance of the Corner Garden.

Councillor Browne reported that there was a need to find someone else to maintain the Corner Garden as Robin Cruse was no longer able to do this due to health reasons. Claire Barrett a member of the public in attendance at the meeting offered to do this for the village.

The Chair thanked her for her offer and the Council unanimously approved this.

The Chair did note that a small honorarium was paid for this work.

6.0 **Councillor Brown to move:** *“This Council believes that Hurst Green Parish Council should publish and maintain on its website, details, including the amount and for what purpose of any new, recent and historical Grants and Donations awarded by this Council, clearly grouped by the organisation or individual to whom it was awarded. Grants awarded from this meeting forward, should additionally be individually publicised using, at a minimum, the news capability of this Council’s website. Whilst this information is freely contained within the minutes of this Council, it is important that this information be placed prominently in the public domain to demonstrate both the financial support this Council provides to the community and for openness and transparency.”*

This was seconded by Councillor Peacock and unanimously approved.

7.0 **Planning: -**

The appeal for RR/2016/1577/P Land off Foundry Close - Hurst Green TN19 7QW.

For residential development of site to provide 60 dwellings, has been **dismissed**.

The Appeal for **Hayes Mill Oast, RR/2016/423/P and RR/2016/422/P** is due to take place in early November.

7.1 RDC Planning decisions

RR/2017/1783/P - 59 Station Road, Hurst Green TN19 7PQ. Demolition of lean-to at the side of the property and its replacement with a single storey side extension of similar footprint. Internal and external alterations.

Granted.

RR/2017/1784/L - 59 Station Road, Hurst Green TN19 7PQ. Demolition of lean-to at the side of the property and its replacement with a single storey side extension of similar footprint. Internal and external alterations.

Granted.

RR/2017/1210/P – Jacobs Well Farmhouse, 125 London Road, Hurst Green. Outline, Demolition of outbuilding and erection of new dwelling. **Granted.**

7.2 Current Applications

RR/2017/2015/P - 2 White Horse Cottages, Silverhill, Hurst Green TN19 7QA. Single storey rear extension, alterations and front porch **Supported.**

8.0 **Finance/RFO's Report:-**

In the RFO's absence the Clerk gave the pre-prepared report.

8.1 Current financial position

Balance of accounts

Community Account (6752)	£20,711.46	as at 23 rd Oct 2017
Community Savings (6779)	£2,062.51	as at 23 rd Oct 2017
Renewals A/C (6760)	£10,077.14	as at 23 rd Oct 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

29 th Sept, RDC, precept part 2.	£18,530.00
05 th Oct, HG Cricket Club, rent for Drewetts.	£50.00

8.2 Resolution to donate £100 to the Community Shop to help with dangerous tree removal.

This resolution was unanimously approved.

8.3 Motion to approve invoices and approval and issue of Cheques

Urgent cheques drawn and paid away

Cheque No. 100834 - G Browne, Grass cut, Drewetts & Lodge Field plus footpath clearance.	£336.00
Cheque No. 100788 - M Walton, band fee for fete.*	£200.00

*Cheque overlooked and therefore not minuted at meeting of the 27th June 2017

Cheques to be authorised for this meeting

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

Cheque No. 100835 - J Ellis, Clerk's Salary (Oct).	£534.93
Cheque No. 100836 - D Hilbourne, RFOs salary (Oct).	£131.84
Cheque No. 100837 - East Sussex Pension Scheme, re Clerk (Oct).	£158.40
Cheque No. 100838 - Earth Anchors, Park bench.	£720.00
Cheque No. 100839 - Spoilt.	-
Cheque No. 100840 - Pet Waste Solutions, clearance of dog bin (3) waste for October.	£84.50
Cheque No. 100841 - Comedy Capers, Donation for theatre company event in village under LGA 1972 s145, agenda item 8.5, 26/09/2017	£500.00
Cheque No. 100842 - Hurst Green Shop, contribution to tree felling in car park as landlord.	£100.00
Cheque No. 100843 - Gary Hardy, installation of 3 benches.	£250.00
Cheque No. 100844 - SSALC Ltd, fee for clerk's networking day 2 nd November.	£78.00

A resolution for approval is sought for present and past invoices (*as circulated via email prior to the meeting to all Councillors*) and issue of Cheques.

Approval of Invoices and Cheques proposed by Councillor Peacock and seconded by Councillor Duddridge.

8.4 Report re update to Office 365 for Parish Council (Cllr Peacock)

Councillor Peacock explained the benefits of this and recommended that the Parish Council should look into subscribing to it. To be looked into when new laptop arrives.

8.5 Request from Rapid responders for a donation and any resolutions in response to this.

Councillors still waiting for more information on this agenda item. Clerk will email Gary Spray and ask him to attend November meeting.

9.0 Playing & Stage Fields

Councillor Browne reported that the Water Board had contacted him about the hatch into the bunker in Stage Field which was unsecured. On inspection it was found that the padlock had obviously been cut off again and was missing. This has now been replaced by Councillor Duddridge.

Email has been rec'd from member of the public requesting a cut of Stage Field due to the extended growing season and longer grass this autumn. It was agreed that Councillor Browne will do this.

9.1 Update of Lodge Field Play Equipment and any necessary resolutions for replacement or repair.

The RFO circulated via email a comparison table of the 3 swing quotes rec'd for the replacement of the 2-seater swing after the last meeting. **Councillors resolved to go with the cheapest quote from Kompan provided the updated quote, after a further site visit, did not significantly increase the cost.**

After viewing the Playdale costs for repair and replacement of the Clutter Bridge and in consideration of the Council's other unexpected outlays in Lodge Field it was **resolved not to proceed with this at this time and to dismantle the bridge and make the area safe.**

9.2 Signage and notice boards for the parishes playing fields and any resolutions to support purchase and installation as deemed necessary (Working party)

Councillor Peacock apologised that he has not done this yet but will now look into it.

9.3 Parish Tree survey report ____

Clerk reported to Councillors that this should be done again and asked Councillors if any of them knew the whereabouts of the previous survey? Councillor Peacock thought this was still with the last tree surgeon to do a report (Neil?). Councillors will give Clerk a list of local tree surgeons to request quotes from.

10.0 Footpaths, Transport & Roads

The A21 road surface is continuing to disintegrate through the Village. Councillor Brown reported that Highways England are looking at resurfacing it in 2021 if money permits! The road is apparently inspected every 28 days for potholes by A-one+.

Footpath 10 at Hayes Mill Oast continues to give cause for concern due to the presence of Highland cattle, electric fencing used to fence them off resulting in width restriction and partial closure of the path near the buildings.

Claire Barrett who is now the Footpath Liaison Officer for the Ramblers and Open Spaces societies reported problems with speeding cars on Bugsell Mill Lane, signs being removed and the path partially being built over. Also seems to be confusion as to the footpath route as it is remembered as going diagonally across the field rather than round the edge. Clerk will look into this.

Claire Barrett also noted that she had contacted Huw Merriman MP about footpath 23 who eventually responded that East Sussex PRow was dealing with this and it was OK to walk.

Councillor Janes reported that the Puffin crossing on the A21 still did not work properly and was very dangerous at night.

Speed signs at the school are not working properly and need reporting. Councillor Barnes suggested that Huw Merriman should be copied in.

Councillor Brown suggested the Council considers inviting Huw Merriman to the village to meet with the Council to discuss his previous support for schemes involving the A21, as he felt that with the upcoming Neighbourhood plan process that residents will see the A21 as one of their main concerns.

The Council agreed and the Chairman resolved to invite Huw Merriman MP to the village.

11.00 Notices and Correspondence:-

Correspondence previously circulated via email.

11.1 Urgent issues requiring attention

Councillor Barnes asked the Council to look at the latest Boundary Commission review of parliamentary constituencies which would split up the district wards. Hurst Green and Ticehurst will be the same ward but under the new proposals Ticehurst and Etchingham will come under the Mid Kent Constituency. Rather than Bexhill and Battle. To be put on the next agenda.

11.2 Councillors questions

None rec'd.

12.00 Items for the next agenda:-

Neighbourhood Plan

Poppy appeal donation

Village Magazine

Other items to be emailed to Clerk as necessary.

13.0 Date and time of next Meeting:-

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

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.05pm.

Distribution of Minutes: -

All Parish councillors.

Parish Council Noticeboard.

ESCC Councillor J. Barnes.

RDC Councillor S. Prochak.

Signed

Chairman

Dated