

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in Hurst Green Village Hall on Tuesday 25th March 2014 starting at 8:00pm.

Present: - Councillor Browne (Chairman), Councillor Cruse, Councillor Duddridge, Councillor Greenfield, Councillor Hampton, Councillor Peacock and County Councillor Barnes.

The RFO, David Hilbourne and the Clerk were in attendance. Thirteen members of the public were present.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Duddridge back after his long illness.

1.0 Apologies for Absence: - Councillor Janes and District Councillor Prochak.

1.1 Council Vacancies

Postponed to next meeting. Councillor Cruse to give Clerk contact details of local resident who has expressed an interest.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting:-

To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th February 2014.

Minutes proposed by Councillor Hampton and seconded by Councillor Greenfield.

2.1 Matters arising from the Minutes: -

Feedback has been rec'd from the Highways Authority re then pedestrian crossing light change on the A21.

3.0 Declaration of Interest: -

Councillor Hampton declared an interest in agenda item 4.3, School project, as a School Governor.

The Chair moved agenda item 9.1 up the agenda due to the number of residents in attention for this item.

9.1 Resident's communication re Merriments Lane

An email has been rec'd from a Merriments Lane resident concerned about the high usage of the lane by HGV vehicles and the safety issues concerned. The Chair noted that the Parish Council shared these views and had for a number of years, been trying to get something done, but with little success. The Council has even offered to pay for signs stating that the lane is unsuitable for HGVs.

At a recent event the Clerk asked ESCC's Transport department to re look at the site in view of the latest concerns.

Two people present reported being clipped by vehicles when walking along the lane and which, although reported to the police with number plates, had been ignored. The Chair sited a similar incident that he was aware of.

Concern was raised that vehicles still used the wrong side of the road at the Merriments junction with Horns Hill to enter the lane rather than slow down and go round the correct route.

Clerk to contact the Police Commissioner re the total lack of response to potentially serious incidents that are being ignored by the local force.

It was generally felt that a petition presented to the ESCC lead Cabinet member would be a good idea and force the issue to be revisited.

Concern was also expressed at how badly the road was being broken up and damaged by the use of heavy vehicles.

4.0 Community:-

4.1 Guest speaker:-

No guest speaker but the Highways Agency had attended the pre meeting to update Councillors and public about the latest position on the A21 drainage works. It was agreed that this was very helpful.

Eight members of the public left the meeting.

4.2 Community Reports

No community reports rec'd.

4.3 School Project

Motion to make a donation to the School Community Bus project under LGA 1972 s137

Councillor Hampton declared an interest as a School Governor and took no part in this agenda item.

The business plan for this was circulated at the last meeting. The Chair supports the idea but believes the 14 seater is the best option as there are less legislative restrictions concerning the drivers of the vehicle. The Parents Association noted that the extra 3 seats would make all the difference and that older drivers would not be affected by the required legislation.

The RFO, David Hilbourne noted that the Council only had the power to donate £4,945 in this financial year under s137 legislation.

Generally agreed that a contract would need to be drawn up and the fine detail agreed.

Councillor Peacock proposed a motion to give £10,000 to the project over a 2-year period subject to satisfactory negotiations and contract. Councillor Browne seconded the motion and it was unanimously supported therefore the motion was carried.

The RFO will prepare a cheque for £4,945 to come out of the current year's budget with the remainder to come from the 2014/15 budget subject to an agreed and signed contract.

4.4 Holy Trinity Church.

Councillor Greenfield reported that damp was still a problem in the Church. Councillor Cruse has written to the Archdeacon to see what can be done about the problem and if volunteers could help.

There has been an increase in the regular congregation and an Easter service will be held. Regular services are now taking place on the first Sunday of the month.

4.5 Parish Council Community Awards

Councillor Cruse proposed that Sue Endean would be an outstanding candidate for this award due to all her unpaid community work. This was considered an excellent idea and unanimously agreed.

4.6 County/District Councillors Report

County Councillor Barnes reported that ESCC was on track to end the financial year with an under spend although Adult Social Care was overspent. 2014/15 is the year when the Council has to save £30million with £15million the next year and £15 million the year after that. Huge sums to save and not easy. Certain contingency funds are available on a one off basis and £5million is to go on roads and £2million for potholes. Policies have been radically reshaped so that unclassified roads can now be dealt with. ESCC aims to deal with all potholes within 5-7 days of them being reported.

The Link road is making good progress and the area will provide the bulk of the housing needed, approximately 1,500. The area will also help build up businesses and the associated rates.

The Council is now finding new ways to do things to make savings.

Councillor Barnes expects the review of Library Services to be produced soon and the Fire and Rescue Services review is currently underway.

5.0 **Planning: -**

5.1 RDC Planning decisions

RR/2014/38/P Old Orchard-adj Wincot, London Road, Hurst Green.

Construction of timber agricultural/horticultural stage shed. Applicant, Mrr and Mrs L Pelham. **Granted**

RR/2014/205/P 28 Station Road, Hurst Green TN19 7PL.

Demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with extension to existing living room. Creation of ensuite to existing bedroom and cupboard to existing hall. Creation of study/additional bedroom and utility room in existing garage. Applicant Mr Malcolm Cox. **Granted.**

RR/2014/123/P 11B Station Road, Hurst Green TN19 7PL.

Variation of condition 5 imposed on RR/2002/1529/P to allow the building to be let as a separate dwelling. Applicant, Mr J Clarke & Mrs J Corrigan. **Refused.**

RR/2014/118/PN3 Commercial Unit 3, Coleman Way, London Road, Hurst Green.

Change existing commercial use to residential (2 bedroom flat) use. Applicant, Design Me Architectural Services. **Already permitted.**

5.2 Current Applications

RR/2014/576/P -

1 Merriments Farm Cottages, Merriments Lane, Hurst Green. Mr & Mrs D Greatley.

Proposed Extensions and improvements to dwelling and erection of detached garage. **Supported**

RR/2014/445/T

Hadlow Gate, Burgh Hill, Hurst Green TN19 7PE. Mr L Lewis

T1 - Sweet Chestnut 10% crown reduction to rebalance the tree's shape and 20% crown thinning. T2 - Sweet Chestnut removal of dead and damaged timber and 25% crown thinning. Reduction of Leylandii hedge to lowest tree at approximately 5.5m. **Supported**

RR/2014/420/P

Grovehill Barn, London Road, Hurst Green TN19 7PS. Mr Mark Compton

PROPOSED NEW ACCESS. **Supported.**

6.0 **Finance/David Hilbourne, RFO's Report: -**

6.1 Current financial position

Balance of accounts

Community Account (6752)	£3,244.94	as at 19 th March 2014
Community Savings (6779)	£636.13	as at 19 th March 2014
Renewals A/C (6760)	£11,058.96	as at 19 th March 2014

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

17th February 2014 - PWLB, loan repayments. £3555.57

Payments received

14th March 2014 - HMRC, refund of VAT. £220.55

6.2 Approval and issue of Cheques

Urgent cheques drawn and paid away

Cheque No. 100452 - SSALC, Good Councillor Guide.(10/01/2014) £15.60

Cheques to be authorised for this meeting

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

Cheque No. 100461 - SSALC, Sub to Local Council Review.	£17.00
Cheque No. 100462 - HMRC, re Clerk's remit income tax collected PAYE.	£346.60
Cheque No. 100463 - J Ellis, Clerk's Salary (March).	£366.28
Cheque No. 100464 - D Hilbourne, RFO Salary (March).	£96.00
Cheque No. 100465 - East Sussex Pension Scheme, re Clerk (March).	£127.76
Cheque No. 100466 - Hurst Green School, donation under s137.	£4945.00

Approval is sought for past and present issue of Cheques.

Cheques proposed by Councillor Peacock and seconded by Councillor Cruse.

7.0 Standing Orders, *Motion to adopt Standing Orders*

It was **unanimously resolved** to adopt the NALC model Standing Orders that David Hilbourne has adapted to reflect the Parish Council. These have previously been circulated in draft by email and the RFO will resend finished Standing Orders.

8.0 Playing & Stage Fields: -

Councillor Cruse expressed concern that nothing was being done to replace the demolished shelter in Drewetts Field and that the field boundary needed fencing on the northern boundary near the entrance gate.

Groundsman (Ken) for the Cricket Club to be approached re help with the fencing as previously agreed. He was now aware of where the underground services actually run across the entrance to the field, which will help for any future work in this area.

9.0 Footpaths, Transport & Roads

A meeting has been arranged by Greg Barker MP with the Highways Agencies in the Village Hall on Friday the 9th May at 3.00pm to discuss A21 issues. Open to the public but only as audience with no rights to speak or ask questions. These would need to be submitted to Councillors before the event.

Councillor Janes to be asked to publicize event in Hurst Green Magazine.

9.1 Resident's communication re Merriments Lane

Moved up the agenda and previously discussed.

9.2 Placement of Speedwatch signs

Both the Highways Agency and East Sussex County Council have been consulted about these and are happy for them to be displayed. Councillors **unanimously** agreed they were a good idea and could be displayed although best after the drainage works were completed.

10.0 Notices and Correspondence: -

Correspondence previously circulated via email

10.1 Urgent issues requiring attention

No urgent issues.

11.0 Items for the next agenda: -

School Project.

12.0 Date and time of next Meeting: -

The next meeting is on Tuesday the 29th April 2014 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 8.00pm with public consultation from 7.30pm. The Annual Parish Assembly will be on the 22nd April starting at 8.00pm

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.27pm.

Distribution of Minutes: -

All Parish councillors.

Parish Council Noticeboard.

ESCC Councillor J. Barnes.

RDC Councillor S. Prochak.

Signed

Chairman

Dated