

## HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Hurst Green Village Hall on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014 starting at 8:00pm.

**Present:** - Councillor Browne (Chairman), Councillor Duddridge, Councillor Hampton and Councillor Peacock. The RFO, David Hilbourne and the Clerk were in attendance. No members of the public attended.

**1.0 Apologies for Absence:** - Councillor Cruse, Councillor Greenfield, Councillor Janes, District Councillor Prochak and County Councillor Barnes.

### **2.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

2.1 Election of Chairperson - Councillor Browne was proposed by Councillor Hampton and seconded by Councillor Peacock. **Unanimously supported.**

Election of Vice Chairperson - due to lack of Councillors present this was postponed to the next meeting.

2.3 Election of Committees and Representatives

a) Playing Fields - postponed to the next meeting due to absence of Councillors at meeting.

b) Footpaths & Roads - Councillor Peacock was nominated by Councillor Browne and **unanimously supported.**

c) Community Representatives - Councillor Browne nominated Councillor Hampton who agreed to continue with this role and was **unanimously supported.**

d) Representative to the Rother Association of Local Councils - postponed to the next meeting due to absence of Councillors at meeting.

e) Tree warden - Councillor Peacock to ask local Tree Surgeon if he would be interested in this.

### **3.0 Minutes of the last meeting:-**

To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 29/04/14.

**Minutes proposed by Councillor Hampton and seconded by Councillor Peacock.**

### **3.1 Matters arising from the Minutes: -**

No matters arising.

### **4.0 Declaration of Interest: -**

No declarations of interest rec'd.

### **5.0 Community:-**

5.0 Guest speaker

No Guest speaker.

5.1 Community reports

Councillor Hampton reported that the School Bus was on order and that training for 1-4 people would cost £495 + VAT for those not qualified to drive this size of vehicle and with children as passengers.

It was agreed that it would be helpful if someone could write an article for the Village Magazine on this project. Councillor Hampton will look into this.

5.1.1 Fete Update

Councillor Browne reported that everything was now well underway and this year there would be sheep racing. Little Acorns and the School Association will be running the refreshment area for the event. Derek Johnson is arranging the band as usual. The Clerk will update the risk assessment for the Chair to sign off.

5.2 Parish Magazine

Not much to discuss under this agenda item, which was requested by Councillor Greenfield. Councillors present thought that it would be useful to have an updated business plan and projection of monies raised through advertising as set against outlay as the Council covered the shortfall via a s137 donation.

### 5.3 County/District Councillors Report

**District Councillor Browne** had to leave Rother's AGM early this evening in order to attend the Parish Council's AGM but reported that much of Rother's meeting would have to be re scheduled due to a change in the political make up of the Council.

A new Chairman of the Council was elected, Cllr. Bridget George, and Cllr. Jim Carroll was elected as Vice-Chairman Ian Jenkins has stood down but Carl Maynard remains Leader of the Council with Martin Kenward as Deputy Leader. The committees will be decided at the next meeting.

## 6.0 **Planning: -**

### 6.1 RDC Planning decisions

**RR/2014/696/P** - Walton, Burgh Hill, Hurst Green TN19 7PE

Single storey rear extension and alterations to form new main entrance with porch along with relocation of existing ground floor WC. **Granted**

**RR/2015/531/P** - Orchard Farm (Ltd) London Road, Hurst Green. To extend farm shop and country stores and replace existing polytunnel and dilapidated storage area to provide rural craft workshops and additional retail display areas. **Granted.**

### 6.2 Current Applications

**RR/2014/1129/T** - Mr P Jones, Beagles Boundary, Burgh Hill, Hurst Green TN19 7PE . Works to Oak. **Supported.**

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

David Hilbourne informed the Council about the latest insurance quotes he has requested this year. Zurich quoted £391.77 without covering the Community Shop, the NFU, our current insurer quoted £655.0 to just cover the Shop and AON have quoted £695.63 for everything which includes £436.08 for the Community Shop building. This would save the shop nearly £260!

The RFO said that he thought AON was trying to get back their market share and are therefore quoting very competitive rates to achieve this. David Hilbourne therefore recommends that the Council accept the AON quotation

**The Council unanimously resolved to accept the AON quotation.**

It was pointed out to the Council that the Clerk would need a replacement laptop and the RFO a replacement PC as both their current IT equipment runs on XP which is now obsolete and no longer supported. As PCs are essential Council equipment it was agreed that this equipment should be sourced and the request put on the next agenda to be formally passed. As the Council budget is very tight the RFO has offered to forgo his salary for 6 months to fund his PC purchase and the Clerk can separately source Microsoft Office for her laptop.

### 7.1 Current financial position

#### Balance of accounts

|                          |            |                                 |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|
| Community Account (6752) | £11,060.26 | as at 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2014 |
| Community Savings (6779) | £636.20    | as at 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2014 |
| Renewals A/C (6760)      | £5,659.21  | as at 24 <sup>th</sup> May 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

29<sup>th</sup> April - Greencore, Drewetts fortnightly bin collection. £21.71

Payments received

None.

7.2 Approval and issue of Cheques

Urgent cheques drawn and paid away

Cheque No. 100478\* - HG School Association, s137 donation for School bus. £4,945.00

\*Note, cheque to replace cheque number 100465 dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 for same amount, which was cancelled by RFO.

Cheques to be authorised for this meeting

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

|                                                                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Cheque No. 100479 - J Ellis, Clerk's Salary (May).                                | £366.08 |
| Cheque No. 100480 - East Sussex Pension Scheme, re Clerk(May).                    | £132.21 |
| Cheque No. 100481 - HG Village Hall, net payment for room hire.                   | £38.06  |
| Cheque No. 100482 - Victim Support, s137 donation.                                | £50.00  |
| Cheque No. 100483 - Rother Responders, s137 donation.                             | £50.00  |
| Cheque No. 100484 - HG Cricket Club, s137 donation.                               | £50.00  |
| Cheque No. 100485 - Robertsbridge Garden Centre, strim Lodge Field March & April. | £384.00 |
| Cheque No. 100486 - Auditing Solutions, internal Audit fee.                       | £270.00 |
| Cheque No. 100487 - AON Insurance, Parish insurance including HGC Shop building.  | £695.63 |

Approval is sought for past and present issue of Cheques.

**Cheques proposed by Councillor Peacock and seconded by Councillor Duddridge.**

7.3 Broadband Expenses for Clerk and RFO

The Clerk noted that the Council had previously paid half of the broadband costs of the Clerk as her home broadband was largely used on Parish business and half the broadband costs for the RFO. The Council was asked if it would continue this practise as broadband is essential for Parish business.

This was **unanimously agreed**.

**8.0 Playing & Stage Fields:-**

Councillor Browne reported that he has managed to adjust the bin in Lodge Field so that the door can now be opened. Councillor Duddridge will see if it will unlock when the key has been retrieved from Sue Endean.

**9.0 Footpaths, Transport & Roads**

The footpath along Station road outside number 24 is becoming very overgrown and difficult to pass. Clerk will report. Also concern about path near 33 Ridgeway.

**10.0 Notices and Correspondence:-**

*Correspondence previously circulated via email*

**10.1 Urgent issues requiring attention**

Councillor Hampton reported that Councillor Greenfield was concerned re old Church pews but some confusion as to which church pews were being referred to in her absence.

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

Election of Committees and Representatives

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

The next meeting is on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 8.00pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Distribution of Minutes: -

Signed

All Parish councillors.

Parish Council Noticeboard.

ESCC Councillor J. Barnes.

Chairman

RDC Councillor S. Prochak.

Dated