

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held in the Village Hall on Tuesday the 21st April 2015 at 8.00 pm

Present: - Councillor Browne (Chairman), Councillor Hampton, Councillor Janes, Councillor Peacock, Councillor Wright, District Councillor Prochak, and County Councillor Barnes (from 8.15pm).
Nine members of the Public, the RFO David Hilbourne and the Clerk were in attendance.

1.0 Welcome and Apologies for absence: - Councillor Browne welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Assembly and gave apologies for Councillor Cruse, Councillor Duddridge and Councillor Greenfield.

2.0 Approval and Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly on the 22nd April 2014
Proposal to approve the minutes was made by Councillor Hampton and seconded by Councillor Janes.

3.0 Matters arising from the Minutes: - None.

4.0 Chairman's Report and Aims for the Council: -
Councillor Browne read out his report and Aims for the Council for 2015-2016.

5.0 Report from Responsible Financial Officer
David Hilbourne gave his report, attached.

6.0 Report from County Councillor Barnes: -
(Given after agenda item 7.0 as Cllr. Barnes was not yet in attendance)

Councillor Barnes gave his thanks to the Clerk and Chair for their work and support throughout the year. Reported that East Sussex has to make cuts of between 70-90million over the next 3 years and would be exploiting more digital technology to help with this. The use of agile working would mean less office space and less staff and partnership working is all helping to save money.

Virtually no waste is now going to landfill as it is nearly all being recycled so very little is being paid out in landfill tax.

South East Services, a joint venture with Surrey is seeing more joint use of services and buildings but there are real cuts to front line services such as the mobile library once every 3 weeks instead of 2.

They have managed to save the 318 bus service but this must be used and supported or it will be lost.

East Sussex has an excellent rating for Children's services, one of the best in the country, with an outstanding rating for fostering and adoption services but a new project called 'thrive' to tackle the problem of families rather than dealing with the children after problems occur is being rolled out.

Schools are doing very well and the county is very good at turning round failing schools.

East Sussex has been very good at building up reserves of money in the good years which has given East Sussex an buffer which has been used to good effect such as the Bexhill to Hastings link road.

Household incomes in East Sussex are rising 9 times higher than other parts of the country.

Currently spending 30 million a year to improve roads although there is a problem with pothole repairs not lasting. 12million has been put aside this year to benefit unclassified roads for the first time in 20years.

Councillor Barnes said that periods of austerity has driven the county to do things differently and better!

7.0 District Councillor's Report: -

District Councillor Prochak's Report: - Cllr. Prochak gave her report.

District Councillor Browne's Report: - Cllr. Browne read out the Rother District Council notes. Attached

8.0 Reports from the Community:-

Report from the Village Hall:-

Pat Barnes gave the report and noted that the hall was being well used for classes and weddings. The schedule of works for the next 2 years included replacing the old windows with double glazed windows. Ongoing problem of recruiting new members onto the management committee_

Report from the Village Fete and Twinning.

Report read out by Derek Johnson. Attached.

Report from Hurst Green Brownies:-

Report given by Sue Eyres. Attached.

Report from the Hurst Green Allotment Association:-

Report read out by Keith Harrison, Attached

Report from the Community Shop

Report given by James Alcock. Tremendous success reported with a 25% increase in trade. Volunteers are very much part of this success story and it is also proving useful in helping to get volunteers employment.

The Shop has successfully participated in the Government apprenticeship scheme.

The cafe sales are growing and the shop is providing a very useful meeting place. The Post Office is appreciated and offers a 7 day service.

A garden party was held to celebrate the shop's first anniversary. Hosted for the third time the community Christmas Carols event. The shop has rec'd awards for outstanding community involvement.

James Alcock thanked the manager for all her outstanding work.

Report from Hurst Green School

Report read out by Councillor Hampton. Attached

Report from Hurst Green Comedy Capers Group

Report given by Councillor Wright. Attached.

Councillor Browne thanked everyone for their reports.

The Chair then explained to those present the new Parish Council Certificate of Commendation, instigated by Councillor Greenfield, to be given to a member of the Community in recognition of their outstanding work and contribution to the village, which was now in its third year.

This year the Council had unanimously agreed to award this to Derek Johnson for his outstanding contribution to the community both with his work organising the Village Fete and his Twinning Association capacity.

The Chair thanked those present and asked for any questions.

9.0 Questions from parishioners:-

Maureen Harniman commented that Speedwatch was still in operation in the village.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9:25pm and invited those present to enjoy the refreshments provided

Signed:-
Chairman

Dated:

