

HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in Hurst Green Village Hall on Tuesday 23rd February 2016 starting at 8:00pm.

Present: - Councillor Browne (Chairman), Councillor Duddridge, Councillor Funnell, Councillor Harrison, Councillor Janes, Councillor Johnson, Councillor Peacock, Councillor Wright, District Councillor Prochak and County Councillor Barnes (from 8.10pm).

The Clerk and the RFO David Hilbourne were in attendance and 6 members of the public.

1.0 Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Cruse.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting:-

To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 26th January 2016.

Minutes proposed by Councillor Janes and seconded by Councillor Peacock.

3.0 Declaration of Interests: -

Councillor Janes declared an interest in agenda items, 6.4 and 6.5 as Editor and producer of the Village Magazine and Duty Manager and committee member of the Community Shop.

4.0 Community Activities:-

No reports rec'd.

4.1 Queen's Celebrations, beacon event.

It was agreed to light the beacon in Stage field on the 21st April. There was also the possibility of doing burgers and buns with a gas fire on site. Risk assessment would be needed and the parish insurance checked.

Working party of Cllrs Janes, Johnson, Peacock and Wright to meet in Village Hall on the 8th March to discuss event.

4.2 Community Friends Groups

Councillor Johnson's proposal for a dinner club goes some way to address this issue but more work needs to be done in the community to raise awareness of the need for volunteers to help provide services and help to those in the community that are vulnerable.

Councillor Prochak reported that Robertsbridge and Salehurst has a Community Friends Group with fifty volunteers. She has already tried to set one up in Hurst Green before the Community Shop opened and only had one response to her door to door leaflet appeal. Councillor Prochak will provide more information and reported that Rother Voluntary Action would also provide help and support with this.

4.3 County/District Councillors Report

District Councillor Prochak reported that RDC had raised their tax by 1.94%, the first rise since 2010.

County Councillor Barnes reported that it looked likely that East Sussex County Council would support a new entrance into Stage Field as anything that improved safety would be supported.

ESCC was currently working with Surrey and West Sussex County Councils on a devolution bid and were currently in negotiations with Central Government.

East Sussex's settlement grant is not good and is being run down quicker than expected but 2.5 million will be put in a contingency fund over the next 2 years. Need to save around 70 million with 21 million to be saved this year.

On a plus note the county has fewer looked after children due to success in dealing with issues before they get this far.

Libraries are to lose about a third of their budget and a different way of service delivery is being looked at.

Although 70% of users are in the older age bracket there is a large percentage of non IT literate users in the younger age groups which is more challenging re service delivery from home.

The Police are increasing their tax by 3.47% but the Fire service are now dealing with fewer incidents apart from chimney fires.

Business rates will take over from the Community grant but fewer large business in East Sussex than other parts of the country.

5.0 Planning: -

Three current enforcement issues in Hurst Green, Grove Hill Farm, London Road, unlawful storage of vehicles on the land and creation of new hard track, 11a Station Road, installation of two condenser units.

A Tree Preservation notice has also been issued for Hadlow Lodge and Hadlow Gate, Burgh Hill covering thirteen trees.

5.1 RDC Planning decisions

RR/2015/3005/L - 44 Station Road, Hurst Green TN19 7PQ. Replacement of front door. **Granted.**

5.2 Current Applications

RR/2016/350/P - Boundary Farm House, London Road, Hurst Green TN19 7QY. Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a replacement dwelling (an alternative house design to that approved under RR/2015/2681/P.)

Supported.

RR/2016/329/P - Bantham Farm, London Road, Ticehurst TN19 7QY. Change of Use from B1 Art Studio to living accommodation, no external alteration is required. **Not supported.**

Chair moved Agenda item 6.4 up order of proceedings. Cllr James declared an interest and left the room.

6.4 Resolution to make a donation of £500 to the Hurst Green Magazine under the LGA 1972, s137

The Council unanimously resolved to make a donation of £500 towards the production costs of the Hurst Green Village Magazine under LGA 1972, s137.

Cllr. Janes rejoined the meeting.

6.0 Finance/RFO's Report:-

Financial report given by the Responsible Financial Officer, David Hilbourne.

6.1 Current financial position

Balance of accounts

Community Account (6752)	£6,636.28	as at 17 th February 2016
Community Savings (6779)	£2,158.91	as at 17 th February 2016
Renewals A/C (6760)	£10,068.48	as at 17 th February 2016

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

25 th Jan. - Biffa, waste collection for Drewetts.	£50.70
15 th Feb. - PWLB, Parish loan interest and capital repayments	£2,125.75

Payments received

None rec'd.

6.2 Approval and issue of Cheques

Urgent cheques drawn and paid away

None.

Cheques to be authorised for this meeting

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

Cheque No. 100640 - J Ellis, Clerk's Salary (February).	£433.06
Cheque No. 100641 - D Hilbourne, RFOs salary (February)	£124.06
Cheque No. 100642 - East Sussex Pension Scheme, re Clerk.	£149.54
Cheque No. 100643 - East Sussex CC, replacement streetlight.	£463.82
Cheque No. 100645 - HG community Magazine, s137 donation.	£500.00

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

Cheques proposed by Councillor Peacock and seconded by Councillor Wright.

6.3 Adoption of Council's Asset Register for 2016

David Hilbourne explained the details of the Asset register and asked for it to be approved.

Councillor Funnell proposed that it be approved and the Council unanimously resolved to adopt the register.

6.5 Quotes for Community Shop's connection to main drainage and help required for funding

Cllr. Janes declared an interest and did not take part in the following discussion.

James Alcock, Chair of the Hurst Green Community Shop management committee addressed the Council.

Although it was presumed that the building was on main drainage at the time of the lease signing this was not checked out and it has subsequently been found to be connected to a septic tank.

Unfortunately the tank is proving to be insufficient for the needs of this growing venture so it is proposed to connect to the main drainage system. Three quotes have been rec'd and James Alcock asked for help towards the costs of the project as the management committee wanted to do the work as soon as possible and he felt that there was insufficient time to submit requests for grant funding.

Councilor Browne said he would approach Thomas Pakenham as the building's owner to see if he was prepared to offer some assistance.

It was unanimously resolved to donate a sum of up to £3,000 towards this project.

7.0 **Playing fields**

Councillor Janes reported that there has been some progress on the repairs to equipment in Lodge Field but needed information about paying for the replacement parts which David Hilbourne supplied.

There were reports that dogs were being walked in Lodge field. This is to be monitored and new 'No Dogs' signs put up.

It was unanimously resolved to replace the football goal nets in Drewetts Field.

7.1 Stage Field entrance and parking

Councillor Browne reported that RDC and ESCC look as if they will support a new entrance.

He suggested that the Council should pay for the planning application and then look for grant funding to pay for the work. This was agreed. To be put on next agenda.

8.0 **Footpaths, Transport & Roads**

Councillor Johnson reported that a pothole near the Church on the A21 was hazardous to pedestrians as stones were now being shot onto the pavement by passing vehicles. It was noted that as the A21 was a European trunk road it should have no potholes! Clerk to investigate.

More reports rec'd from residents concerning parking in Station Road and a motorhome in the Great Oak area.

An SLR (Strengthening Local Relationships) to be arranged with ESCC to discuss parking issues, the bus stops and footpath 23.

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

Councillor Barnes said that he was still waiting for a briefing from East Sussex Rights of Way concerning Kent's findings about footpath 23's route.

It was generally felt that the whole process was taking too long and a letter of complaint should be sent complaining about the time taken to sort out this issue. It was noted that Claire Barrett had located the records in The Keep not ESCC's Rights of Way team and that she had written to Huw Merriman MP who in turn has contacted Rupert Clubb at ESCC.

The Chief Constable has been written to concerning Claire Barrett's case.

9.0 **Notices and Correspondence:-**

Correspondence previously circulated via email

9.1 Urgent issues requiring attention

Date for the Annual Parish Assembly provisional set for the 19th April (*note this has been changed to the 12th April*) at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

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

Queens's celebrations- beacon
Stage Field's new entrance application.
Donation to Victim Support.
Village Fete.

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

The next meeting is on Tuesday 29th March 2016 in Hurst Green Village Hall starting at 8.00pm with public consultation from 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Distribution of Minutes: -

All Parish councillors.

Parish Council Noticeboard.

ESCC Councillor J. Barnes.

RDC Councillor S. Prochak.

Signed

Chairman

Dated