

## HURST GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General meeting held in Hurst Green Village Hall on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 8:00pm.

**Present:** - Councillor Browne (Chairman), Councillor Duddridge, Councillor Hampton, Councillor Janes, and District Councillor Prochak.

Two members of the public and the Clerk were in attendance.

**1.0 Apologies for Absence:-** Councillor Greenfield, Councillor Harniman and County Councillor Barnes.

**2.0 Declaration of Acceptance of Office:-** Councillors signed Acceptance of Office.

**3.0 Code of Conduct:-** Councillors agreed and signed the Code of Conduct.

*Agenda item 5.0 Co-opting for three vacant seats was moved up the agenda and discussed at this point. (Clerk noted incorrect numbering of Agenda items on agenda and amended accordingly.)*

**5.0 Co-opting for three vacant seats:-** Two residents, Lilian Cruse and Lesley Bristow have expressed an interest in the vacant seats.

Lilian Cruse was proposed by Councillor Hampton and seconded by Councillor Duddridge.

Lesley Bristow was proposed by Councillor Browne and seconded by Councillor Janes.

**Both candidates were unanimous supported.** Both candidates accepted the positions and signed the Acceptance of Office and Code of Conduct.

### **4.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

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

**4.2 Election of Vice Chairperson** - Councillor Cruse was proposed by Councillor Duddridge and was seconded by Councillor Hampton. **Unanimously supported.**

**4.3 Re-appointment of Accounts Manager and Bookkeeper** - Councillor Browne proposed that the Council accept David Hilbourne's offer to carry on dealing with the Council's accounts on a voluntary basis although some expenditure would be needed for equipment and stationary. This was seconded by Councillor Duddridge and **unanimously supported.**

### **4.4 Election of Committees and Representatives**

a) Playing Fields - Councillor Duddridge was proposed by Councillor Browne and seconded by Councillor Cruse. **Unanimously supported.**

b) Footpaths & Roads - Councillor Browne proposed Councillors Bristow and Janes and was seconded by Councillor Cruse. **Unanimously supported.**

c) Community Representatives -

Councillor Browne proposed Councillors Cruse and Hampton and was seconded by Councillor Janes. **Unanimously supported.**

d) Representative to the Rother Association of Local Councils - Councillor Harniman had expressed an interest in this and was proposed by Councillor Browne and seconded by Councillor Bristow. **Unanimously supported.** Councillor Greenfield to be asked if she wishes to be the second representative.

Councillor Browne asked about the position of tree warden. Clerk to check as unsure that the scheme is still running due to funding cuts.

**5.0 Co-opting for three vacant seats** *moved up agenda and discussed after 3.0*

**6.0 Minutes of the last meeting:-**

*To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011.*

**Proposed by Councillor Duddridge and seconded by Councillor Hampton.**

**6.1 Matters arising from the Minutes:-** No matters arising.

**7.0 Declaration of Interest:-** Councillor Bristow and Councillor Janes both declared a personal interest in agenda items 8.2, 8.2.1 & 8.2.2 pertaining to the Community Shop as members of the Hurst Green Community Shop Association. Councillor Cruse declared a personal interest in the Village Hall.

**8.0 Community:-** Guest speakers:-

No guest speakers.

**8.1 Local Action plan Sub Committee Report**

No report. Councillor Browne proposed that due to a new Council and members this committee should be re formed at the next meeting.

**8.2 Community Shop - progress report**

Clerk read out email rec'd from Roger Taylor who is waiting for a response from the Diocese. Councillor Janes gave an update on the shop but was concerned over the lack of progress with the lease. Parish Council shared this concern and would ask Roger Taylor for a further progress report. Councillor Browne to action.

Shop Association now of the opinion that as the roof would have needed replacing anyway they want to proceed as quickly as possible towards getting the lease signed.

It was noted that the project was not being held up now by either Thomas Pakenham or the Parish Council.

Revised insurance quote rec'd of £958.80 (£1016.33 Inc. IPT @ 6%) in light of the valuation received for the replacement building of £470,000 (due to the unusual shape of the building).

**8.2.1 Resolution to pay invoices on behalf of The Shop Association in order to claim back VAT on the understanding that the Parish Council is reimbursed by the Shop Association in advance.**

**The Council unanimously supported this resolution.**

**8.2.2 Resolution to sign the Application to the WARR Partnership for grant money of £30,000 for the refurbishment of the building**

**The Council unanimously supported this resolution.**

**8.3 Community Reports**

No community reports.

**8.4 Village Fete**

Councillor Cruse reported that the Fete would take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July and that there would be a parade of floats and that many stalls have already been booked. Meeting of the committee next week.

**8.5 County/District Councillors Report**

**District Councillor Prochak** was welcomed back as re elected member of RDC for the Salehurst Ward along with Councillor Browne as a newly elected member to RDC for the Salehurst Ward.

District Councillors reported on general cuts to services and working parties being set up to look at various work areas to see if savings can be made although these are likely to be mainly through staff cuts due to not replacing vacant posts.

The South East Regional Plan was now gone and with it targets for the number of projected new houses due to be built in the area. It was noted however that the average percentage of social housing is 20% but in Rother it is just 8%.

General information was given re the projected effects of the Localism Bill, which is all about giving control back to local communities including inferring more power to Parish Councils. There is however concern over how Parish Councils will deal with planning issues.

The Standards Board for England will be abolished.

## 9.0 Planning: -

### 9.1 RDC Planning decisions

None received.

### 9.2 Current Applications

None received.

## 10.0 Finance/Clerk's Report:-

10.0.1 *Proposal to continue to pay a third of the Clerk's broadband costs.*

**The Council unanimously resolved to support this proposal.**

### 10.1 Current financial position

#### Balance of accounts

Community Account (6752)	£20,587.43	as at 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2011
Community Savings (6779)	£14,376.85	as at 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2011
Renewals A/C (6760)	£20,023.44	as at 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2011

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

None.

### 10.2 Approval and issue of Cheques

#### Urgent cheques drawn and paid away

Cheque No. 100139 - J Ellis, postage stamps.	£19.68
Cheque No. 100140 - J Smith, Catering for Parish Assembly.	£135.00
Cheque No. 100141 - DG Browne Contractors, Grass cutting Drewetts & Lodge Field (April).	£120.00
Cheque No. 100143 - DG Browne, flowers & chocolates for retiring Cllr.	£42.99

#### Cheques to be authorised for this meeting

Cheque No. 100142 - J Ellis, Clerk's Salary (May).	£353.53
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Approval is sought for past and present issue of Cheques.

**Cheques proposed by Councillor Cruse and seconded by Councillor Janes.**

### 10.3 Parish Insurance for renewal

The Council unanimously resolved to accept the renewal quote from Zurich.

### 11.0 **Playing Fields:-**

No issues to report.

#### 11.1 Stage field, lease to Parish Council

Postponed to next meeting.

### 12.0 **Footpaths, Roads & Transport:-**

Councillor Browne read out email from Cllr Lock re Merriments Lane.

Clerk read out response from Highways re Vehicle activated signs outside the School.

Council wish to invite Highways Agency to send a representative to a Parish meeting.

Cllr. Browne to write to Greg Barker re A21 and its future now the bypass is off the map.

### 13.0 **Notices and Correspondence:-**

ESCC, Info re new Adult Social Care scheme

Sussex Police, Heather Keating leaving Rother District

Rother Local Strategic Partnership, RTAG Agenda Tues.10<sup>th</sup> May

ESCC, ET & E in Your area May/June 2011 (Transport Update)

Update on County Council support for Parish & Town Tree Wardens 2011/12

Rother Transport Action Group (RTAG) Updated contact list

RVA, E-Bulletin, Ed. 34 May 2011

RVA, Carbon Reduction Workshop, Robertsbridge Comm.Hall, Thurs.

26<sup>th</sup> May 10.15am

British Youth Council, Local Councillor Shadowing Award

RALC, minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> April

NALC, revised first Edition of Standing Orders for Local Councils now Available.

SALC, minutes of East Sussex group 13<sup>th</sup> April

Update on Children's Active Play sessions

Clerk & Councils Direct, May 2011

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Local Development Framework

Core Strategy Review Consultation

ESCC, email from Cllr.Lock re Merriments Lane

Highways agency info re Vehicle activated signs outside of the School

ESCC, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee newsletter, May 2011

ESCC, Focus on East Sussex, 2011 annual monitor

Hawkhurst Community Partnership invite to Launch of 'Smugglers Trail' 26<sup>th</sup> May  
3pm

#### 13.1 Urgent issues requiring attention

Affordable Housing Update, 3 sites have been identified as having potential and will be looked at further.

Two fencing quotes rec'd for Allotment Field, third being sort.

Three quotes have been rec'd by the Village Hall Management Committee for the repair of the Lantern Roof.

### 14.0 **Items for the next agenda:-**

Allotment Field Fencing tenders  
Lantern roof for Village Hall

**15.0 Date and time of next meeting:-**

Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2011 in Hurst Green Village Hall at 8.00pm with public consultation from 7.30pm

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.35pm.

Distribution of Minutes: -

Signed

All Parish councillors.

Parish Council Noticeboard.

ESCC Councillor J. Barnes.

Chairman

RDC Councillor S. Prochak.

Dated