



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Neighbourhood Planning Committee

REPORT (Minutes)

of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee,
held at the Fleur de Lys Council Chambers, Market Street, Hailsham
On Thursday 7th April 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

Prior to commencement of the remaining formal business of the meeting a period of not more than 15 minutes had been assigned for the purpose of permitting members of the public present to address the Assembly, or ask questions (on matters relevant to the responsibilities of the Town Council) at the invitation and discretion of the presiding Chairman.

The Deputy Town Clerk read an email received from Mr. R. Latter asking Is it the understanding of Hailsham Town Council that although the Wealden Local Plan Consultation Document contains several references to improvements to the A27 being critical, the first 4,000 new homes would be permitted without any such improvements?

It was agreed to note the letter and seek an explanation from Wealden District Council.

Ms J Walters said that she was aware of a number of comments on the “Hailsham Voice” website criticising the Council’s decision to spend up to £80,000 on the production of a Neighbourhood Plan. She said it was important for the Committee to put forward the benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Ms Walters asked how the Committee would consult with the public in the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.

NP/15/10/
65 **Present:** Councillors Mrs S. Cottingham, Ms C. Collinson-O’Toole, N Coltman (Substituting for C. Triandafyllou), P. Holbrook, Mrs. M. Laxton, G. Moore and P. Soane (Chairman).

66 **Other Members:** Ms V. Browne, Mr. S. Cross and Mrs. H. Deehan.

67 **Also in Attendance:** Councillor F. Berry.

68 **Officers Present:** Mr. M. Caira (Deputy Town Clerk & Business Enterprise Manager) and Mr. D. Saxby.

69 **Apologies For Absence:** None

70 **Declarations of Interest:** None

Minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee held on 21st March 2016

71 **RESOLVED** to note and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee held on 21st March 2016.

Matters Arising

- 72.1 Councillor Mrs. Laxton said that the Committee had authorised her to purchase a pop up banner as well as leaflets.
- 72.2 The Deputy Town Clerk said that in future all orders for goods should be made by an officer.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

- 73.1 The Chairman posed the question to members of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee why they wanted to be on the Committee?

Councillor Mrs. Cottingham said it was important to allay the fears of the public.

Mr. Cross said he wanted to make life better for the residents of Hailsham. Within the perimeters of what the town had to work in it was for the residents and community to shape the future.

Councillor Mrs. Laxton said wanted the opportunity to influence the the future and to participate with the public to get their views known,

Councillor Holbrook said it was to get the Council's views known on potential problems such as traffic flow. It was important that the Committee worked for the town as a team.

Councillor Moore said Hailsham was one of the worst examples of town planning in the country. It was time to stand up for Hailsham and the Neighbourhood Plan was a way to control the look of the town and provide the appropriate facilities.

Mrs. H Deehan said she was shocked at the development of the town. There appeared to be no design or no idea of the bigger picture. It was time to put the decision making back to the community.

Ms Browne said the Neighbourhood Plan was an important vehicle for getting all viewpoints.

Councillor Ms Collinson-O'Toole said that as well as a councillor, she was a town centre business owner. She sat on the Neighbourhood Planning Committee to pursue the future of the town centre as well as housing needs.

Councillor Coltman said that if the right Plan was not delivered it would be open to developers to pursue their own agenda.

Mr. K. Hinton said he was new to the town and was aware of the town's potential. The Council must take this opportunity to change the town for the better. Through his experience in local government he wanted assist the town via the Neighbourhood Plan. This was the opportunity for the Town Council to take the lead and rise to this challenge.

Councillor Soane said he had lived in many places in this Country and had lived in Hailsham for 15 years. The changes to the town were not great and had

happened in spite of people's interests. This Council had always deferred to Wealden District Council. It should be the prime purpose of Hailsham Town Council to get the best opportunities for all and to pressurise service providers. It was important to get the funding the town deserves. There should be community-led changes and it was the duty of Hailsham Town Council to stand up and lead the town.

- 77.2 The Chairman posed the question about the Neighbourhood Planning Committee acting as a team to deliver an agreed outcome of delivering an agreed Neighbourhood Plan within the agreed scope of this Committee.

The Chairman sought reassurance that all Committee members were committed and willing to take collective responsibility for carrying the Plan through on behalf of the people of Hailsham as he was not convinced that Hailsham Town Council as a whole was signed up to the production of a Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chairman said that he wanted members of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee to sign up to cabinet responsibility. Once agreed in Committee no member would have the right to oppose the decision elsewhere.

- 77.3 Councillor Ms Collinson-O'Toole was strongly against this suggestion and said it was wholly undemocratic.

- 77.4 The Deputy Town Clerk said this proposal was against Council's Standing Orders.

- 77.5 Councillor Moore also wanted an assurance that all Committee members would act collectively for the best outcome for the Neighbourhood Plan and said that he would make life hell for anyone who went against a decision made by this Committee.

Neighbourhood Planning Sub-Committees

- 78.1 The Chairman said that two Sub-Committees had to be established at this stage.

- 78.2 **Community Engagement and Consultation**

The following people were nominated and accepted as members of this Sub-Committee: Councillors Mrs. Cottingham, Mrs. Laxton, and Puttick and Mr. Cross and Mrs. Deehan. It was agreed that Mrs. Deehan would chair this Sub-Committee.

- 78.3 **Building the Evidence Base**

The following people were nominated and accepted as members of this Sub-Committee: Councillors Mrs. Collinson-O'Toole, C. Triandafllou, P Holbrook and G. Moore and Ms Browne, K. Hinton and Ms J. Walters. It was agreed that K. Hinton would chair this Sub-Committee.

- 78.4 Councillor Berry offered to organise the necessary administration, subject to the Town Clerk's approval.

Date of next Meeting

79 **RESOLVED** that initial reports should be available for the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee on 21st April 2016.

80 The Deputy Town Clerk reminded those present that it was inappropriate to swear in a public meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.08pm.