



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 June 2018 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.

None present.

NP/18/01/
1 **Present:** Councillors F Berry, N. Collinson, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, Glenn Moore (Chair) and Mrs. M. Laxton (Vice-Chair).

2 **Other Members:** Mr K Hinton.

3 **Officers Present:** Mr. J. Harrison (Town Clerk) and Mr. D. Saxby.

4 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors N Coltman and J Puttick.

5 **Declarations of Interest**

None presented.

6 **Minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee held on 3rd May 2018**

RESOLVED to note and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee held on 3rd May 2018.

Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation

7.1 The Town Clerk reported that he had been notified by Wealden District Council that a Strategic Environment Assessment and an Appropriate Assessment would need to be carried out for the Neighbourhood Plan. This was because of a ruling by the Court of Justice of the European Union - People Over Wind v Teoranta.

7.2 The implications of this case on the Neighbourhood Plan means that the it can no longer use mitigation or avoidance at the screening stage to conclude 'no likely significant effect'. Instead, in order to meet the Habitats legislation and taking into account the judgement ruling, an Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken where screening 'a likely significant effect'. An Appropriate

Assessment is more detailed and looks whether a plan will affect the integrity of the site.

7.3 In addition to the Appropriate Assessment, the Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan will need to be rescreened for Strategic Environmental Assessment.

7.4 The Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Town Clerk had met with Kelly Sharp and Marina Brigginsshaw of Wealden District Council where they were advised of the ruling and its ramifications on the Neighbourhood Plan. Because of the legal precedent it was accepted that the Consultation Period would have to be postponed as it would be necessary to consult once again when the assessments had been carried out.

RESOLVED to note the postponement of the Regulation 16 consultation period until the appropriate assessments have been undertaken.

8 **Confidential Business**

RESOLVED that due to the special and confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, and possible disclosure of information not in the public interest at the present time, the following items of business be transacted following the temporary exclusion of members of the Public and Press, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No. 1E.

7. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA).

The reason for exclusion is: terms of tenders, and proposals, and counter-proposals in negotiations for contracts

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)

9.1 Wealden District Council had informed Hailsham Town Council that a Strategic Environment Assessment and Appropriate Assessment would need to be commissioned as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the Town Clerk was researching the possibility of receiving a technical support package from Locality (DCLG) or an additional grant of £8,000.

9.2 **RESOLVED:**

- a) To continue to the process of investigating the eligibility and applying to Locality for an Additional Support grant or Technical Support Package
- b) Pending the outcome of that (and assuming that the Technical Support Package is not available), to commission LUC to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Appropriate Assessment

10 **Financial Statement**

RESOLVED to note the financial statement of expenditure against budget for the project.

The committee discussed the impact of the requirement for assessments and whether additional budget would be required

RESOLVED not to approach the Town Council for additional funds for the Neighbourhood Plan at this point.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.28pm.