



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 13th December 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Prior to commencement of the 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/18/03/
11 **Present:** Councillors F Berry, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, Glenn Moore and Mrs. M. Laxton and J Puttick.

12 **Other Members:** None present.

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

14 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors N Coltman and Mr K Hinton.

15 **Declarations of Interest**

None presented.

16 **Minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee held on 7th June 2018**

RESOLVED to note and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee held on 7th June 2018.

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

17.1 Members discussed the Town Clerk's report circulated with the agenda.

An indicative timetable is as follows:

- SA Scoping consultation: 9th November until 13th December
- Draft SA report: w/c 10th December
- Final SA Report, including responses to comments received from Scoping consultation: 21st December.

The SEA scoping report has been forwarded onto the three statutory consultees

(Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) for a five week consultation period, which started in November. To date, only Natural England has responded and stated it has no comments on the report.

The Scoping Report is subject to a statutory 5-week consultation period. However, to move things on a little quicker, we have started preparing the SA Report whilst the Scoping Report is out for consultation. If the scoping comments raise any significant issues, such as requiring change to the objectives etc., this will lead to additional time and costs of reworking our assessments, which we would seek to cover via an extension to the project budget. We would expect we will be able to produce a final report before Christmas.

The timetable is planned to get the final SA complete this side of Christmas. However, as explained previously, because the SA is being prepared ahead of receiving comments on the Scoping Report, there is a risk that comments received may mean we have to unpick parts of the report. In our experience, this is unusual, but if this is the case then finalising the SA Report may spill over into the New Year.

17.2 **RESOLVED** to:

- a) Request an urgent meeting with Wealden District Council officers to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan
- b) Issue a press release explaining why there is a delay in taking forward the Neighbourhood Plan.
- c) Meet the cost of an additional £741.83 + VAT for
- d) Thank LUC for all of its work.

18 **Neighbourhood Plan Timetable**

The Town Clerk had prepared an update on the Neighbourhood Plan timetable

RESOLVED to note the amended the new schedule.

19 **Regulation 18 Consultation**

RESOLVED to await the outcome of the Wealden District Council timetable.

20 **Financial Statement**

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

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