



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 November 2019 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.

There were no members of the public present.

The Chair said that Mr Frank Berry who had served as a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee, as both a councillor and lay member had recently passed away. She asked members to stand for a period of silence as a mark of respect.

NP/19/03/
21 **Present:** Councillors N Coltman, D Cottingham, K Hinton, P Holbrook, M. Laxton (Chairman) and J Puttick.

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

23 **Apologies for Absence:**

No apologies had been received.

24 **Declarations of Interest**

None presented.

25 **Minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee held on 19th August 2019**

RESOLVED to note and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee held on 19th August 2019.

Progress to date, Next Steps and Timetable

26.1 The Chair said that Wealden District Council still did not have an outcome of the Independent Inspector's report. There was also a delay on the agreement on their Local Plan.

In the absence of a new Local Plan Members said that Neighbourhood Plan should be compared to the existing core strategy.

26.2 **RESOLVED** that the Town Council, in preparing the draft neighbourhood Plan, has followed best practice in seeking to future proof the Neighbourhood Plan given the

new Local Plan for the Wealden district. The Town Council has also followed the advice and requirements of Wealden District Council in including HRA1 to address Habitat Regulation matters.

The Town Council is greatly concerned that having taken this approach it now finds itself in a situation whereby progressing the Neighbourhood Plan is significantly delayed and frustrated by matters outside its control and resolution. It should be remembered that under due process a Neighbourhood Plan can be prepared and progressed having regard to the current Adopted Development Plan for the relevant area, notwithstanding any stage reached in preparation of any new replacement Local Plan. In addition, the Neighbourhood Plan includes no site allocations or allocation policies and any applications submitted to the District Council will still need to meet Habitat Regulation requirements regardless of the inclusion of policy HRA1 in the Neighbourhood Plan.

In the circumstances Hailsham Town Council asks that the Examiner consider such modifications as necessary to the Neighbourhood Plan, including recommendations on policies related to Habitat Regulation matters, and issues an Examination Report in order that the Neighbourhood Plan can progress.

Financial Statement

- 27.1 **RESOLVED** to note the financial statement of expenditure against budget for the project.
- 27.2 **RESOLVED** to ringfence £4,000 of the remaining budget for promotional materials for the referendum.

Confidential Business

- 28 **RESOLVED** that the press and public are excluded during the discussion on the next item of the agenda (8) as it concerns the terms of tenders and proposals and counter proposals in negotiation for contracts (In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No. 1E).

Hailsham Draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal

- 29.1 A quotation had been received from Troy Planning to appraise and review the draft Conservation Area prepared by Wealden District Council
- 29.2 **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation received from Troy Planning to appraise and review the draft Conservation Area; and to commission the work as soon as possible.
- 29.3 **RESOLVED** to make a request to the Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee for an additional £5,000 for the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 29.4 **RESOLVED** to issue a press release stating that the timing has changed, and that Hailsham Town Council has written to the Inspector, but a referendum will now not be held until after Christmas.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.42pm.