



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE

REPORT (Minutes)

of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee,
held in Fleur de Lys Meeting Room, Town Council Offices, Market Street, Hailsham
on Thursday 5th March 2026 at 7.00 p.m.

NP/25/06/
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Public Forum

None were present

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Present: Councillors C Bryant, D. Chapman (Vice Chair), M. Laxton (Chair), C Mitchell
J. Herbert (Troy Planning) – attended via Teams

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Officers Present: J. Harrison (Town Clerk), K. Giddings (Corporate Services Manager)

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Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted from Councillor A. Blake Coggins

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Declarations of Interest

None were presented.

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Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee held on Thursday 11th December 2025 be confirmed a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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Neighbourhood Plan Review

Members noted that over 200 residents had attended the 7 Neighbourhood Plan consultations.

Overall, a positive response had been received from the public in relation to the Policies.

It was noted that East Sussex County Council had still not responded to the consultation and a reminder email would be sent to them.

J. Herbert advised that the updated National Planning Policy Framework was due to be published, possibly in the summer of 2026.

J. Herbert advised of some additions to be made to the Plan :

- It would be made clear that the preferred location for a Health Care Centre is in the Town Centre
- To show the need for a wider range of businesses in the Town Centre, and ways to encourage people and new businesses into the Town.
- To encourage shop front improvements – referring to the need for ongoing maintenance to units
- To consider a multi storey car park in the Town
- To add in suggested improvements to bus routes and services –the Committee agreed to include a bus route to Gleneagles Drive and Brunel Drive, as part of the A22 Connectivity Project

J. Herbert suggested changing the name of the “Hailsham Design Guide and Code” to the “Hailsham Design Guidelines”, as this is more guidance than a code.

He advised he has added some new plans showing the Town Council boundary, to show where the guidelines apply. A “Design Vision” has also been added.

J. Herbert further advised that alongside the new NPPF, a new guidance document has been produced by the Government.

60 **Gleneagles Project**

Members discussed a proposal for a café and toilet facilities at the Hailsham Country Park. It was considered that this could be added into the A22 project.

60.1 **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Assets Management Committee a proposal to consider a Gleneagles project to build a café and toilet facilities at the Hailsham Country Park

Proposer C. Mitchell, seconder D. Chapman

All members voted in favour of the proposals

61 **Hailsham Town Council response to Wealden Council’s draft Plan**

The Committee requested J. Herbert respond to Wealden District Council in relation to their draft plan, on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

J. Herbert advised that as part of his response, he would state that it was unclear how the comments submitted in the draft Local Plan in 2024 have been considered. He stated that he would question how the option sites are being assessed and considered that an opportunity is not being given to comment on the sites, as it is unclear where the additional options sites are going

61.1 **RESOLVED** to appoint J. Herbert to respond to the Wealden Draft Plan, on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee

C. Mitchell, M. Laxton and D. Chapman voted in favour

C. Bryant abstained from voting

62 **Next Steps for Neighbourhood Plan**

J. Herbert advised he had been preparing changes to the Plan and he will send these changes to the Committee in the next week, for signing off. He advised that the final version should be ready by the end of April.

If a referendum is required for the Neighbourhood Plan, this is likely to be around November 2026.

J. Herbert advised that the Town Council can agree which examiner inspects the Plan.

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Finance Statement

Members noted the finance report.

It was noted that after payments due, there will be £7,052.27 left in the budget.

It was suggested this is ringfenced and carried over into the 2026/2027 budget.

The request for ringfencing the £7,052.27 to be proposed at the next Finance Committee meeting.

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Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st July at 7.00 pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.20 pm

Signed
Chair of Committee