Hailsham Town Council
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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 6th August 2026 at 7.00 p.m.

NP/25/07/15 **Councillor C. Mitchell chaired the meeting, as the Chair, Councillor M. Laxton, had lost her voice**

Public Forum

None were present

16 **Present:** Councillors C. Bryant, D. Chapman, M. Laxton, C Mitchell (Chair), A. Ricketts (substituting for K. Blundell)

J. Herbert (Troy Planning) – attended via Teams

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

18 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted from Councillor K. Blundell

Proposer – C. Bryant, seconder – M. Laxton

All in favour

19 **Declarations of Interest**

None were presented.

20 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was noted that A. Ricketts had not been listed as present at the meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee held on 1st July 2026 be amended and confirmed a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposer C. Bryant seconder M. Laxton

21 **Update for Neighbourhood Plan**

The Neighbourhood Plan is now at consultation, as part of the examination process.

J. Herbert advised that the Neighbourhood Plan has received a very positive response

from Southern Water, who had made some requests, that have been outlined in a letter. J. Herbert advised that the requests from Southern Water can be accommodated.

It was noted that the Examiner has been appointed for the Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan. The same Examiner was appointed for the Horam Neighbourhood Plan.

Next Steps for Neighbourhood Plan

J. Herbert advised that the Council is likely to receive clarification questions from the Examiner in November and then the Council will have 2-3 weeks to respond.

The Examiners draft report is likely to be issued late December/ early January 2027.

Once the report is received J. Herbert can carry out the modifications.

Modifications are likely to be made in the New Year.

It would be anticipated to go for Referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan before the elections and purdah period (early April 2027)

22 **Wealden Local Plan**

Members noted the draft Wealden Local Plan is likely to go to Cabinet on 18th September 2026 and then to consultation, which will run to 31st October 2026.

J. Herbert advised that the Government had stated Wealden Council must submit the draft Local Plan by the end of this year. It is currently unsure when the examination of the Local Plan will take place.

All Local Authorities are likely to be submitting their Local Plans at the same time.

J. Herbert stated a new Local Plan is unlikely to be adopted until 2028.

23 **Wealden Design Guide**

Several update meetings have taken place on the Design Guide. It is unclear at the moment whether there will be an opportunity to respond to the Guide.

J. Herbert stated that some of the principles in the Design Guide align with the thinking in the Neighbourhood Plan, which is a positive. He stated that the draft Design Guide is an improvement on the current Design Guide.

J. Herbert advised he would let the Committee know if the Town Council are able to respond to the draft Design Guide. He further advised he would keep in touch with C. Pennock and J. Roberts at Wealden Council, in terms of the examination and he will keep the Committee informed.

24 **Terms of Reference**

The Committee discussed an update to the Terms of Reference for the Committee.

C. Mitchell stated that as the Neighbourhood Plan has been taken through the proper consultation, he is requesting the Terms of Reference to be updated. Projects have been identified in the Plan and therefore the Neighbourhood Plan Committee should be in charge of the running and managing of these projects.

The proposed additional wording to the Terms of Reference:

“The Neighbourhood Plan Committee to take responsibility for delivering its own projects”.

J. Harrison expressed some concern with the proposal, stating that this may increase the workload of the staff, and asked whether these projects would be in addition to the

Strategic Plan?

C. Bryant considered the Committee should keep track of projects and timescales but was not in favour of the proposal.

M. Laxton, C. Mitchell, D. Chapman and A. Ricketts were in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee taking charge of the projects in the Neighbourhood Plan.

24.1 **RESOLVED** to Full council to add an additional paragraph to the Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Plan Committee stating :

"The Neighbourhood Plan Committee to a take responsibility for delivering its own projects"

Proposer M. Laxton, seconder C. Mitchell,

M. Laxton, C. Mitchell, D. Chapman and A. Ricketts voted in favour of the proposal

C. Bryant voted against the proposal

25 **Public Art Update**

It has been confirmed that creating the public art areas within the Town is a valid use of CIL and the funds have been ringfenced for this project.

Members requested K. Giddings contact the owners of the wall next to Beyond the Fringe and the owner of the old Halifax building, to seek their permission to place the artwork on the wall by the hairdressers and the twitten by the old Halifax building

It was agreed to meet with Wealden Council, alongside J. Herbert and M. Laxton, to discuss the project further and consider ideas for an artist.

The proposed locations for the public art are :

The tunnel between what was Halifax Building Society and Legends hairdressers in Hailsham High Street

North Street Art Gallery extension wall in Vicarage Lane in Hailsham

The long wall in Waitrose car park by the foot path, adjacent to the Health Centre

The wall at Carriers Path by Beyond the Fringe hairdressers

The project will need to go out to tender as the design will need to be agreed by Wealden Council , as the Council owns two of the premises where the artwork will be placed.

26 **Part Pedestrianisation**

The Council had accepted Troy Plannings bid for the feasibility project, to investigate the possibility of part pedestrianisation of the High Street

J. Herbert advised that he would visit Hailsham the following week to start the study.

He advised that he has some information from ESCC on traffic flow and they have advised they may be able to carry out some additional counts.

Troy Planning are also accessing Strava Metro data to find information on walking and cycling routes.

He advised he should have a draft report prepared shortly.

C. Mitchell asked about data in relation to lorries and supermarket deliveries. J. Herbert advised that the ESCC study may break down the type of vehicle but no further details

than this.

27 **Finance Statement**

Members noted the finance report and the overspend of £3000

It was noted that further re-organisation of funding may be required to be discussed at a Finance Committee meeting

28 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd September at 7.00 pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.55 pm

Signed
Chair of Committee