



MINUTES of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 27th February in East Hoathly Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Chris Magness, - Chairman, Cllr Victoria Albuquerque, Cllr Susan Cole, Cllr Diane Knill, Cllr Jonathan Ritchie, Cllr Tony Pope, Cllr Marion Wilson and Cllr David Vaughan.

Also in attendance: Karen Crowhurst – Locum Clerk
Cllr Ann Newton – Wealden District Council

Members of the public – Approx. 30

At 6.15pm the meeting welcomed members of the public and opened with comments and questions. There were no comments or questions from the member of the public in attendance.

A Member of the public drew attention to the recent submission of the Highways Plan pertaining to the planning application at Hesmonds. The member of the public requested to know the position of the Charitable Trust status of the playing field as the Highways plan included the boundaries of the field. Another member of the public provided background information regarding how the Trust was set up and who the previous trustees were as well as restrictions imposed for the field. After establishing the Council Members are the Custodian Trustees, members of the public sought assurance that the land would not be sold. The Planning Committee Chairman confirmed that there is no intention to sell the land.

Another member of the public expressed concerns about the District Council cancelling their Planning Committee meetings.

Minutes

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Deane.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Councillors to give notice of declarations of personal, prejudicial and pecuniary interests in respect of items on this agenda

2.1 There were no declarations of interest. Cllr Cole stated that she will not comment on WD/2017/0260/LDE PIPERS FARM

3. **TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH FEBRUARY 2017**

It was **resolved** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 20th February as a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was proposed by Cllr Pope and seconded by Cllr Ritchie. The minutes were then signed by the Planning Committee Chairman.

4. **ACTIONS POINTS**

4.1 a) Wealden Local Plan – update

Signed _____

Date _____

- 4.2 Cllr Magness requested that Cllr Newton provide an update. Cllr Newton reported that the Local Plan is due to be published on Friday 3rd or Monday 6th March 2017. In light of the plan being considered on 13th March the Planning South and North meetings have been cancelled. This is to enable Members to consider applications within policy of the approved Local Plan. Cllr Newton also reported that pending applications to be considered by the Planning Committees will be considered in early April. This will include the Hesmonds application.
- 4.3 Cllr Newton commended those involved with the Local Plan as all have worked hard.
- 4.4 b) Update on Lightsource – **Clerk/DV**
- 4.5 Cllr Vaughan informed Members that the form which outlines the community benefit is now ready for signing. Cllr Vaughan informed Members that in the first phase of Community Benefit the amount of £2,400 was received by the Parish Council. Cllr Vaughan motioned that the form for the second phase be signed in order for Council to receive payment. All Members were in favour. The forms were then signed by Cllr Vaughan and witnessed by the Locum Clerk.
5. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**
To consider Planning applications including those received after this agenda has been published– Appendix 1 (note – consult notice board and/or Clerk for further information):
- 5.1 At 6.40 the Chairman suspended standing orders to allow members of the public who were in attendance regarding the above application to provide information or raise concerns as requested by Wealden District Council.
- 5.2 The information and concerns expressed were as follows:
- The increase in the size of the tracks
 - The material changes in relation to the planning history
 - The operating of machinery to create new tracks
 - The increase in noise levels
 - The size of motorcycles now being used especially as the age range has changed since the original request for a Certificate of Lawful Development
 - The size of the motorcycles being larger
 - Non family members using the tracks
 - The use of a large barn with agricultural restrictions being used for storage of motorcycles
 - Professional riders training on the site practicing as part of the European Motor cross team
 - Concern that there is a motor cycle enterprise operating from the farm
 - The lack of enforcement by WDC despite concerns being reported
- 5.3 Members of the public requested that the Parish Council do not support this matter.
- 5.4 One member of the public made reference to the previous application for a Certificate of Lawful Development and expressed there is a lot of support against approval. There was a show of hands 15 members of the public showed their support.
- 5.5 Cllr Cole supported the information regarding the increased size of motor cycles.
- 5.6 Queries were raised how to respond to the information requested by WDC and how to report noise issues.
- 5.7

Signed _____

Date _____

Members of the public were advised to provide contact details to the Locum Clerk in order for her to contact the Officer of WDC dealing with this. Members of the Public were encouraged to contact WDC's Environmental Health Services concerning noise levels.

5.8
5.9 The Planning Committee Chairman reinstated Standing Orders at 8.50pm

WD/2017/0260/LDE PIPERS FARM, HOLLOW LANE, EAST HOATHLY, BN8 6QX
USE OF LAND FOR THE RIDING OF MOTORBIKES AND USE OF BUILDING AS A WORKSHOP AND FOR STORAGE, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF MOTORCYCLES IN NON-COMPLIANCE WITH CONDITION 1 OF WD/2005/0764/FR.

5.10
5.11 **Comments and observations**

At the Planning Committee held on 27th February 2017 residents provided the Parish Council with information regarding noncompliance. Residents agreed to send their details to you via the Clerk. It became apparent that there is a lot of activity creating a high level of noise. It appears that as the children have grown older invitations have been extended to their friends to ride motorcycles alongside them this has led to an increase in size of motorcycles using the farm. The Parish Council does not condone this type of activity which has an impact on neighbouring properties and especially as the District Council did not issue a Certificate of Lawful Development.

5.12
5.13 It was also brought to the Parish Council's attention that the large barn on the farm has an agricultural restrictions and conditions imposed upon it. Members were informed the barn is currently being used for storage of bikes, therefore, not being used for agricultural purposes.

East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council requests the District Council looks further into this especially as it is quite common knowledge there is a professional club operating from the farm.

6. **PLANNING CONSENTS, REFUSALS & APPEALS RECEIVED**

6.1 The Locum Clerk reported that Planning decisions have not been received since the last Planning Meeting.

7. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP – update and actions**

7.1 Cllr Knill reported that she has met with the Parish Council Chairman to discuss the benefit of having a Neighbourhood Plan and has taken possession of all the information relating to the Neighbourhood Plan to date. Cllr Knill confirmed that she is happy to accept the role for Chair for the Steering Group, and an inaugural Steering Group meeting has been scheduled for Monday 6th March. Cllr Knill reported that she will be meeting with the clerk of Ringmer Parish Council who have an established plan in place. Cllr Knill suggested that a meeting with Cllr Newton should also be held as she would be able to guide the Council through the process as well as confirming WDC involvement.

7.2 Cllr Newton explained the process and recommended a meeting be held with the relevant Officer to discuss any available funding and seek advice.

8. **COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS**

8.1 Cllr Wilson requested to know if there were any TPO's on any trees at the Hesmonds site. Cllr Wilson was advised that there are no trees with preservation orders on them. Cllr Albuquerque posed the question regarding all Members being on the Planning Committee. Further advice will be sought.

Signed _____

Date _____