

**EAST HOATHLY WITH HALLAND PARISH COUNCIL**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on November 15 2017.**

**1. Apologies:** G. Kennedy

**2. Present:** Diane Knill (Chair), J. Richie, T. Pope, J. Deane., S. Cole, V. Crick, P. Brooke, D. Burroughs, R. Haffenden, J. Walker, G. Cuthbertson.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting held on October 18 2017:**

3.1. These were agreed as a record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

**4. Discussion of the Creation of a Neighbourhood Plan with representatives from Hersmonceux Parish Council.**

4.1. The Chair welcomed Ian Stewart (Chair of Hersmonceux Parish Council) and Stephen Nash (Vice Chair) to the meeting.

4.2. Stephen and Ian outlined the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan for Hersmonceux which had now reached the stage where it had been submitted to Wealden District Council.

The following points summarise the discussion:

4.2.1. Hersmonceux was the first parish to initiate a NP in Wealden. WDC had been very supportive throughout the process and their working relationship with the Council was good.

4.2.2. To date, 5 years had been spent in creating the Np for Hersmonceux. There had however been a false start which probably lengthened the process by 12 -18 months.

4.2.3. They estimated that the total cost would be in the order of £30 000.

4.2.4. They emphasised that it was not necessary for development sites to be identified in the NP and it would be difficult to predict what sites would come forward during the life of the NP.

4.2.5. It was important however for the NP to set out clear goals as regards design, layout, materials etc. which would be used in any development and would be acceptable within the Parish. Any development must be compatible with existing design etc.

4.2.6. While Policies and wish lists could be proposed they must be deliverable. For example the development of a joint cycle pedestrian walkway between Halland and East Hoathly which was surfaced and well maintained was appropriate whereas a sports centre might not be feasible unless the village developed sufficiently to financially support it. It was agreed that the support of cycle groups who were keen to support cycle paths throughout East Sussex should be contacted.

4.2.7. Aims and aspirations which seemed feasible now might not remain so during the life of the NP and goal posts would shift and need to be revised/updated.

4.2.8. Policies must be compatible with those set up in the Local Plan of WDC.

4.2.8. The former Clerk to Hersmonceux who had recently retired had provided all the technical and administrative help required to date. This had been an enormous asset in creating the Neighbourhood Plan.

4.3. The Chair and Steering Group Members thanked Stephen and Ian for their extremely helpful contribution.

### **5. Meeting with Consultant on November 6.**

5.1. Although the meeting with the Consultants had proved extremely useful and the PLACE Analysis had helped to focus on how the NPP would develop. Concern was expressed that Halland had been completely ignored. The Chair would raise concerns with the Consultant re this matter. It was important that Halland was addressed on an equal footing with East Hoathly.

5.2. WDC had refused to supply the consultant with copies of maps of the parish. Feria expressed concern at this lack of cooperation which had not occurred in previous local authorities where Feria had been involved in working on Neighbourhood Plans.

5.3. As a consequence of 5.2. Feria said that there had only been time to hand draw from aerial photos a large scale map of EH for the meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Although this was accepted as a difficulty, it was not regarded by the Steering Group as a valid reason for ignoring Halland on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The Chair would emphasise this when she contacted Feria.

### **6. Proposed Dates for Task 4 (Visioning Event) and Task 5 (Design Forum).**

6.1. The Chair would contact Feria re arranging dates for these events.

6.2. Both these dates would need to be well advertised so that residents were informed.

### **7. Neighbourhood Plan Funding.**

7.1. Although funds were in hand which would cover the cost of the initial consultation with Feria it was essential that further funds were obtained. The total cost of creating the Neighbourhood Plan was of the order of £30 – 40 K and the Parish Council could not raise funds of this order without the precept being raised beyond what residents would accept.

7.2. It was understood that the Government was releasing funds in 2018 (of the order of £23 million) but no details were yet available as to how these funds could be accessed or distributed.

### **8. Additional Matters.**

8.1. The Chair would approach AIRS (Action in Rural Sussex) to establish what assistance they could provide.

8.2. Village Housing Initiative: Discussion postponed to a future meeting.

**9. Date of Next Meeting** The next meeting of the Steering Group will be held on:  
**Wednesday, December 13 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kings Head, East Hoathly.**