

EAST HOATHLY WITH HALLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday September 20 2017

1. **APOLOGIES:** Jonathan Walker, Sue Cole, Denis Drinan, Gill Kennedy
2. **PRESENT:** Diane Knill (Chair), Tony Pope, Jonathan Ritchie, John Deane, Gina Cuthbertson, Peter Brooke, Rowan Haffenden,
3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON August 8 2017**

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

4. **RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER OF THE STEERING GROUP**

4.1. Owing to family commitments, Carolyn Robins had resigned from the Steering Group.

4.2. Jonathan Ritchie offered to contact Kathy Crisp, a Halland resident, to fill this vacancy. This was unanimously agreed.

5. **UPDATE ON FUNDING**

5.1 The Chair confirmed that the grant of £9000.00 had now been received from Locallity UK and that the funds were lodged in the Parish Councils Accounts.

5.2 These funds were awarded to be used entirely to cover the Consultants Fees (Feria UK) and had to be spent by February 2018.

5.3. The Chair confirmed that she had also contacted Wealden District Council re funding towards the Neighbourhood Plan costs.

6. **APPOINTMENT OF THE CONSULTANT.**

***6.1.** An EGM of the Parish Council had been held on September 4th at which it had been agreed that Feria UK would be appointed as consultants to the Neighbourhood Plan.*

***6.2.** The Chair had issued a letter confirming the decision of the Parish Council and Feria UK had replied, accepting the appointment.*

***6.3.** The terms of appointment were as in the dossier sent by Feria UK.*

***6.4.** The provisional schedule for the programme of work set out in the dossier had still to be confirmed by Feria UK.*

7. **STRATEGIC POLICIES UPDATE**

***7.1.** Feria UK had advised that the Strategic Policies and Working Parties should be put on hold until after they had held their Visioning Event and Design Forum*

***7.2.** It was agreed that the Working Parties would for the present remain as they formed a valuable means of exchanging ideas etc. on what the Steering Group regarded as specific policies. They would however for the present have a low key approach.*

***7.3.** Feria UK also advised that a data base of local organisations and businesses should be compiled. This was already in hand.*

8. WORKING PARTIES: INTERIM REPORTS.

8.1. The Working Parties had been asked by the Chair to provide reports on what progress they had made by the date of this meeting.

8.2. *The reports can be summarised as follows:*

8.2.1 Environment and the Countryside: (Leader: John Deane).

Existing natural habitats (woodland, hedgerows etc) must be protected from any destruction arising from development. The WP advised that developments should be small with no more than 5 houses annually.

8.2.2. Leisure and Sports: (Leader Denis Drinan). *Jonathan Richie said that better facilities for sports were required and sports development in the community required encouragement. The Playing Fields Pavilion also required improvement.*

8.2.3. Arts, Crafts, Tourism. *(leader: David Burrough) Although there appeared to be quite a flourishing arts community in the Parish it could be enhanced by community noticeboards to advertise events, exhibitions etc, more publicity and ideally a purpose built arts centre.*

8.2.4. Employment and Business (Leader: Tony Pope). *There had been a poor response from the business community to his initiative.*

8.2.5. Health and Well Being (Leader: Peter Brooke). *Peter Brooke had made extensive enquiries which had led to the conclusion that considerable improvement was required in this area.*

8.2.6.1 Development Policy (Leader: Diane Knill). *This Group was still in the process of being formed and had not met. There was a reluctance to lead this group and Diane Knill was acting as leader on a temporary basis.*

8.2.6.2. *Tony Pope drew the attention of the Meeting to a Village Housing Initiative which had been undertaken by East Ham District Council. This initiative required the Parish/ Council to purchase land and then lead development on that site. This could ensure that the type of building on the site was controlled by the PC and could be limited to: affordable housing, social housing, 2/3 bedroom properties etc. Details of the scheme can be found at: <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/article/3524/Village-Housing-Initiative>.*

8.2.6.3. *The Steering Group discussed the possibility of implementing such a scheme in East Hoathly with reference to a site in South Street, currently a green field site but which had been the subject of planning applications.*

8.2.6.4. *It was agreed that this initiative would be raised with the Parish Council as soon as possible. Chair, Tony Pope to action.*

8.2.6.5. *The Chair advised that while the principle of this scheme could be incorporated in the NP, it was not within the remit of the NP to implement or control such a scheme.*

8.2.6.6. *The Leaders of the WP's agreed that they would send the chair a resume of their progress as a series of bullet points by October 8th which would then, subject to Parish Council approval be available through the Parish Web site and other outlets as an information sheet for the public to comment on and offer their suggestions. It was important public consultation begins to take place.*

8. MEETING WITH WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

8.1. *The Chair had arranged to meet with Emma Garner at Wealden District Council to discuss the progress of the NP to date and also to ascertain how WDC could assist with the initiative, what policies they would like to address etc. The intent of the meeting was to promote cooperation.*

8.2. *Gina Cuthbertson and Jonathan Ritchie had agreed to attend the meeting with the Chair.*

8. **DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

8.2. *The Chair suggested that it would be helpful if meetings took place monthly on a regular basis.*

8.3. *The third Wednesday of a month was agreed as suitable with the exception of December when the meeting would be held on the second Wednesday.*

8.4. *The dates of future meetings are therefore:*

October 18, November 11 and December 13.

All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the Kings Head, East Hoathly.

8.5. *Additional meetings with the Consultant were likely to be necessary.*

Diane Knill

Chair