

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HORSMONDEN DEVELOPMENT
ADVISORY GROUP (ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF HPC)
HELD AT HORSMONDEN VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 30 APRIL 2024 AT 7.00 PM

Present:

Cllrs March, Davis, Russell, Richards and Mr Winsor, Mrs Newton

In attendance:

Lucy Noakes (Clerk)

Anna Blyth (Assistant Clerk)

Non-Attendance:

Cllr Baxter-Smith

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. PUBLIC SESSION (no decisions):

No speakers.

3. CHANGE OF COUNCILLOR MEMBERSHIP (CLLR RICHARDS TO TAKE THE PLACE OF CLLR CURRIE)

Cllr March proposed that Cllr Richards take the place of Cllr Currie as a new member of the Horsmonden Development Advisory group (HDAG); seconded Mrs Newton. Unanimous.

4. AGREE MINUTES OF THE HDAG MEETING 19TH JANUARY 2024

The Minutes of the Horsmonden Development Advisory Group meeting held on 19 January 2024 had been circulated beforehand by the Clerk. They were agreed for accuracy and proposed for acceptance by Cllr March, seconded Cllr Russell and voted for unanimously by those present at that meeting and signed by the Chair.

5. DISCUSS POINTS FOR RECOMMENDATION IN PC'S SPEECH ON BASSETTS FARM APPLICATION TW/24/00078/HYBRID AT THE TWBC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chair had suggested that the PC consider the key points that they may wish to put forward to the TWBC Planning Committee in their allocated 3-minute speech regarding application 24/00078/HYBRID. It was noted that the next possible date for this meeting is the 19th June however, at this stage it is not known whether this application will feature on the agenda.

Members discussed the key areas that they felt should be included in the PC's speech and summarised them into four main points. It was agreed that the Chair would take these points away and draft a speech which HDAG could then review and put forward to the PC's full Council for discussion and agreement at their next Planning Committee meeting on the 21st May or the next full Council meeting on the 3rd June.

6. DISCUSS REASONING FOR THE PC'S REQUEST TO SPEAK AT THE NEXT EXAMINATION OF THE SUBMISSION LOCAL PLAN AND RECOMMENDED POINTS

The Clerk advised that TWBC have requested that the PC submit their reasons for wanting to speak at the next examination of the Submission Local Plan (SLP).

After discussion, it was agreed that the main reason for wanting to speak at the next examination was to enable the PC to clarify the housing allocations per site for Horsmonden with the Inspector, considering the latest information submitted by the PC in their response to the public consultation.

7. DISCUSS VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE OVER THE COMING YEARS

Members discussed the future of the village, bearing in mind that the SLP allocations for Horsmonden could increase the village population by 40-50%. It was agreed that in order to deal with this effectively the PC may need to employ a Consultant. The Clerk confirmed that an amount of £20,000 had been included for a Strategy Consultant within the PC's latest Section 106 request, which had recently been sent to TWBC for consideration in negotiations with site developers.

There was also discussion regarding the need for a new or improved village hall. Various options were discussed including the refurbishment of the existing hall and the building of a new hall at either the Brenchley Road development site or at the sports ground, as part of the new Pavilion. It was agreed that in the future there would need to be a public consultation regarding this. In the meantime, the Clerk will investigate whether the PC are able to sell the existing village hall as the funds from this sale would be required to build a new hall.

There was some discussion regarding the possibility of forming a Citizens Assembly to discuss the various options regarding the village hall. It was also suggested by Mrs Newton that the PC could gather feedback from parishioners via a stall set up at future village events.

Mrs Newton mentioned that a new village hall has recently been built in Chiddingstone Causeway and suggested that the PC contact Chiddingstone PC for more information. The Clerk confirmed that Ticehurst PC have also been contacted for details of their new village hall in Flimwell.

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm