

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HORSMONDEN DEVELOPMENT

ADVISORY GROUP (*ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF HPC*)

HELD AT HORSMONDEN VILLAGE HALL

ON TUESDAY 14 JULY 2026 AT 7.30 PM

Present:

Mr Winsor, Mrs Newton, Cllrs Richards, Davis, Russell, and Baxter-Smith.

In attendance:

Lucy Noakes (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Boon. Mrs Newton proposed acceptance of the reason for absence and this was seconded by Cllr Richards. Unanimous.

Cllr Baxter- Smith arrived a few minutes late.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

Mr Winsor and Mrs Newton both signed their declarations of acceptance of office to confirm their positions as members of the Horsmonden Development Advisory Group for another year and their acceptance of the Horsmonden Parish Council code of conduct.

Cllr Richards proposed Mr Winsor for the position of Chair of HDAG and this was seconded by Mrs Newton, unanimous.

It was considered that as the group had managed previously without a Vice chair, the appointment of one was not necessary .

3. Public Session (no decisions):

No speakers.

4. Agree minutes of the previous meeting 21 April 2026

The minutes of 21 April 2026 had previously been circulated by the Clerk. Mrs Newton proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded Cllr Davis . Unanimous from those present at the previous meeting.

5. Consider the published TWBC Local Plan Scoping Consultation and propose a response for HPC to consider on 21-July including points raised in the PC's discussion on 6-July

Mr Winsor had provided a draft working document (see Appendix 1 attached) for the group to consider based on those points raised at the PC meeting on 6 July as well as taking into consideration the main concepts of the Horsmonden Neighbourhood plan. He explained in some detail how he had used AI to assist him with this work , and had fed in the details contained within the consultation, the Horsmonden NH plan and those concepts raised by the PC at its last meeting.

Those present discussed the draft and the following points were raised for inclusion/greater emphasis:

- The importance of ensuring that water infrastructure can meet the future demand imposed by building more homes.
- The inclusion of rainwater harvesting and solar panels should be considered on all future new builds to assist with water and energy sustainability.
- Food sustainability and scarcity. Rural farmland should be maintained wherever possible for provision of food in order to assist with food sustainability .
- The resilience of rural communities should be considered and assistance towards further resilience built into any future proposals.
- The new Local Plan must provide much greater emphasis on looking at communities holistically and not seeking developments in isolation to fulfil numbers . Infrastructure must be planned and provided cohesively with developments .

It was proposed by Cllr Richards that the draft document be updated to reflect the above points and that the final edited version be presented to the PC at their meeting on 21st July for consideration as HDAG's recommended response, when responding to TWBC's Scoping Consultation . This was seconded by Mrs Newton , and voted for unanimously by the committee .

Mr Winsor kindly agreed to edit the draft document with those points above and submit to the PC as HDAG's recommendation . It was also suggested by Mrs Newton that she could ask Copilot to produce a summary of the document once edited to see which points it pulled to the forefront in its summary, as TWBC may use AI assistance when considering responses to such consultations. This would ensure that the correct points would be at the forefront of such a summary if TWBC uses this methodology to assess the responses.

THE MEETING ENDED AT APPROX 8:30PM