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Minutes of the combined Planning and Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 30th January 2024 at 6.30pm. This meeting was held at Rusper Village Hall.

Present: M Cooke (Chair), Cllrs G Hussey (Vice Chair), M Fenton, G Sallows, M Fillmore, F Maitland-Smith, R Gatt, S White, District Councillor Liz Kitchen.

Also present: There were 2 members of the public.

Meeting commenced 1830hrs

1-24 **Apologies**

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Cllr G Fleming, G Adams, County Councillor Katie Nagel and District Councillor Tony Hogben.

2-24 **Declaration of Interests**

Members were reminded to make any declarations of a personal and/or pecuniary interest that they may have in relation to items on the agenda. No declarations were made.

3-24 **Climate Crisis**

The Council **acknowledged** that there is currently a climate crisis, and to ensure that all decisions made within meeting have consideration to this.

4-24 **Minutes of previous meeting**

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the previous combined Council meeting held on 19th December 2023 with one change to the attendance list. The Chair signed the minutes.

5-24 **Open Forum**

A member of the public asked if there was a hedge cutting schedule for this year? The Clerk has not received the schedule yet but it is due soon and will be uploaded on to the website.

6-24 **Reports from other Authorities**

District Councillor L Kitchen – noted: that there is an increase in the Council Budget Precept; increase in car parking in District Council car parks; Local Plan going through the Public consultation process. HDC reserves are £25M and there is currently debate on whether to spend £10M on the Capitol theatre to refurbish it and extend seating. Noted that new legislation means buildings have to be carbon neutral as part of the HDC plan. There is no further information on the Drill Hall.

7-24 Active Planning Applications

Cllr G Sallows Chair of Planning chaired this section of the meeting.

It was **noted** that a resolution was passed to use the phrase as part of all planning responses: *“In the event that the officers are minded to propose the acceptance of this application, Rusper Parish Council would ask for it to go to full committee and that the Parish Council is allowed to speak to their objections at the meeting.”*

- (a) It was RESOLVED to agree with the response to planning application DC/23/2322 Chowles Farm sent in between meetings to meet consultation deadline.
- (b) DC/24/0036 Stumbleholme Farm Rusper Road Ifield West Sussex RH11 0LQ Prior Notification for Change of Use of Agricultural Building to no 5 dwelling houses.
- (c) DC/24/0038 Stumbleholme Farm Rusper Road Ifield West Sussex RH11 0LQ Prior Notification for demolition of existing agricultural barn
- (d) DC/24/0037 Stumbleholme Farm Rusper Road Ifield West Sussex RH11 0LQ Prior Notification for demolition of existing agricultural barn
- (e) DC/24/0034 Stumbleholme Farm Rusper Road Ifield West Sussex RH11 0LQ Prior Notification for demolition of existing agricultural barn
- (f) DC/24/0033 Stumbleholme Farm Rusper Road Ifield West Sussex RH11 0LQ Prior Notification for Change of Use of Agricultural Building to 5no. dwellinghouses (C3 Use class).

*The Council discussed each application (b) to (f) but **agreed** to comment on the application with the same response.*

It was RESOLVED to strongly object to this application. The response submitted to the last 2 application is to be used along with some minor rewording to the statement. Cllr G Sallows to provide the Clerk with the wording to the response.

- (g) DC/23/2328 Mowbray Sub Phase 2 Old Holbrook Horsham West Sussex Application for approval of Reserved Matters pursuant to Condition 5 of Outline Planning Permission DC/16/1677 for extension of the primary road between Phases 1 and 2, temporary turning head, provision of pedestrian/ cycle paths, SUDS basins and associated landscaping.

It was RESOLVED that there was no further comment the Parish Council to make to this planning application. Noted that the Bridleway should have been included within the reserved matters. Cllr G Hussey to check back on the original application to see where the bridleway will be placed.

- (h) DC/23/2325 Scrag Copse Farm Prestwood Lane Ifield West Sussex Change of use from B8 (Storage and Distribution) to the use for vehicle parking, storage and maintenance (Sui Generis) and / or B8 (Storage and Distribution) together with office provision, installation of roller shutters, windows, landscaping and associated works (Retrospective)

It was RESOLVED to strongly object to this application due to the hours of use in line with department of health, water neutrality detailed within the response is set at 30 litres per day which is unsustainable, noted that vehicles are cleaned on site and this is running as a 24 hour business. Previous ownership stated as 50 to 100 employees but this is incorrect as it was formally a storage unit/builders yard. The premises has been concreted over contrary to planning and the business operates outside of the department of health business use hours. The location is on a narrow country single track lane with sharp bends and no footpaths – the highway is not sustainable for a business of this nature. Prestwood Lane is used by equestrians to access the bridleways and this needs to be taken into consideration.

- (i) DC/23/2326 Wood End Farm Ifield Wood Ifield West Sussex RH11 0LE
Erection of 1no. cattle barn and cattle handling system with concrete base

It was **RESOLVED** to support to this application.

8-24 **Agree responses to planning applications received since publication of the agenda**

DC/21/1427 Horsham Consultation for 221 units, need to comment on the consultation today. Water for 650 units and 220 for Morrisons.

The Parish Council **agreed** that the development is in the North Horsham District – the water neutrality statement supporting this development is accurate and against the current environmental crisis as reported by Natural England and the planning application should not be permitted.

9-24 **Enforcements**

The Council noted the report submitted by Cllr Fillmore in advance of the meeting.

It was **agreed** to issue an enforcement representation to Scrag Copse near Prestwood Lane – it was reported to the Council that there is industrial use on site and that an enforcement officer should make necessary enquiries.

10-24 **Proseed Development Presentation**

The Council agreed to a site visit on 2nd February at 2.30pm. Clerk to inform the developer. Carry item to the next meeting for feedback.

11-24 **Reports from Representatives**

- (a) **Cllr S White** – no update on speed limits. It was **agreed** that a new battery should be purchased for the SID.
- (b) **Cllr G Hussey** – following the meeting with Gatwick Transport Group regarding illegal parking noted there was an article in the local paper. A new quotation to finish to the Operation Watershed work was received and distributed to Council. Noted that works were not complete but the contractor agreed is not available to do the work in the foreseeable future. The new contractor has issued a quotation in line with previously agreed works. The quotation for the works was distributed to the Council in advance of the meeting. It was **agreed** that the works should go ahead with the new contractor. Clerk to issue relevant procurement paperwork. It was agreed that Cllr Geoff Hussey and the Clerk would project manage the work.
- (c) **Cllr R Gatt** – Wimlands Operation Watershed – the Clerk cannot find a file on this project. Clerk to meet Cllr Gatt to see the work required and issue a new application to WSCC. Carry to next meeting.
- (d) **Cllr M Cooke** - Attended the WSALC Chairs meeting. Feedback from the meeting was that training is key for new Councillors; there is a short supply of Clerks, Locum Clerks are charging around £45 per hour. It was reported that ESCC spend 70% of budget on adult care and social services and S106 money is going on infrastructure not affordable housing. The Precepts are increasing around 5 to 6% but some Parish Councils have had to increase by a substantial amount. Register of Interest forms - there is a note to redact the private addresses of Parish Councillors as there is concern for Councillor safety. It was reported to the Chair by a walker that Ifield Court Hotel has a public right of way running through to the Gatwick car parking business at the back of the hotel. is in

a bad state of repair; this has been lodged with WSCC and it is due to be repaired.
Noted that this land is now owned by Homes England.

12-24 **Clerk Update**

- (a) The Council **noted** the reports to authorities report issued in advance of the meeting. Clerk to reissue report regarding the Hillybarn Road sign as it has not been fixed as reported back to the Clerk. It was reported at Langhurst Lane that the road surface and the edge of the road are disintegrating. This had been reported some time ago but the Clerk will issue a fresh report with new pictures. Noted that the report of the overgrown hedge by the shop is still overhanging the footpath. Clerk to follow up the report submitted in August 2023.
- (b) The Council **noted** the update on Ghyll Manor planning application.
- (c) The Council **agreed** the Clerk can attend the CiLCA course after June 2024.
- (c) The Council **noted** the streetlight contract application. Action Clerk to resolve the issue with the light in Cooks Mead.
- (d) The Council **noted** the response made to the member of the public and the actions taken in Rusper Road, Ifield.

13-24 **Local Plan Extra Parish Meeting 13th February 2024**

- (a) The Council are holding an Extra Parish meeting on 13th February to discuss the draft Local Plan. It was **agreed** the agenda would include the following:
 - i. note front door access only due to other meeting.
 - ii. Introduction
 - iii. John Milne CDC.
 - iv. Questions from Councillors.
 - v. Open forum public session for public discussion (time limit per person).
 - vi. How to fill respond to the Consultation

It was **agreed** to send questions in advance of the meeting to John Milne, HDC. The Councillors will submit their questions to the Clerk who will put them together in one document and reissue to the Councillors for final approval before inclusion in the Agenda.

It was **agreed** to publicise the meeting with a start time of 7.30pm, the laptop and projector will be available for the meeting.

13-24 **Rusper Sports Club Management**

- (a) The matter of a tenure for the current Sports Club was a carried to the next meeting.
- (b) It was noted that the S106 money was awarded subject to receipt of a Guarantee of Works.
- (c) It was agreed to hold the grant application to Courage Dyers for the maintenance works and to apply for outstanding CIL money first. Clerk to apply for CIL money.

14-24 **CAGNE/GATWICK**

- (a) Noted the reports sent in advance of the meeting and are published on the website.
- (b) Noted the email from CAGNE, the Council agreed to the response made by Cllr Fillmore which will be issued by the Clerk.

15-24 **NPSG**

- (a) Noted the Council received feedback from the NPSG meeting.

- (b) The draft Landscape Survey had been issued in advance of the meeting but the Councillor had not had time to review it fully. The Council require the final version of the document in advance of the Local Plan Consultation response. It was **agreed** that Cllr Fenella Maitland-Smith will issue comments to the consultant on behalf of the Council and issue the final draft for adoption at the Extra Parish meeting on 13th February.
- (c) The Locality grant – last grant was applied for in 2017 fresh application in progress – carry to next meeting.
- (d) Noted that a possible future grant for a transport survey may be required which will specifically report on transport modelling.
- (e) Noted the draft letter proposed to Council to Natural England. It was agreed that the Clerk would email the letter to Natural England for their comments on the points raised.
- (f) It was agreed that the Council will issue their response to the Consultation after the full Parish Council meeting in February. It was discussed if the Parish Council should do a leaflet drop informing the residents of the Extra meeting to discuss the Local Plan but the item was not passed due to the lack of time.

16-24 **Emergency Planning**

- (a) The draft webpage to address emergency planning was shown the Councillors. This item is to be carried to next meeting.

17-24 **Civility and Respect Pledge**

- a) Resolved - to sign up to the civility and respect pledge.

18-24 **Financial**

- (a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the report, including the bank reconciliation
- (b) **Noted** that the Precept request was put into HDC on 20th December 2023 and receipt has been acknowledged.
- (c) It was **agreed** to accept the Internal Audit fees Mulberry and Co.
- (d) It was **agreed** to review the grass cutting contract. Carry to next meeting.
- (e) It was **agreed** to keep BT as the broadband provider at the Village Hall.

19-24 **Schedule of payments**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve schedule of payments.

20-24 **Future Parish Council meetings**

It was **agreed** to hold 2 separate Parish Council meetings. One will be the Planning Committee meeting and the second the full Parish Council meeting. The Planning meeting will fall on the third Tuesday of the month and the Planning meeting will fall on the last Tuesday of the month with a start time of 7pm. This will commence in March 2024 as the next 2 meetings are already advertised. Clerk to adjust the meeting calendar and resend to Councillors and the Village Hall.

**Next meeting is Tuesday 13th February 2024 Extra Parish Meeting – Local Plan.
Combined Planning and Parish Council meeting 27th February 2024.**

Meeting closes 2115hrs