

## **EAST HOATHLY with HALLAND PARISH COUNCIL**

Meeting of the Full Council on **16<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 at 7.00pm.**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

In attendance: Cllrs. Butcher, Cole, Freezer (chair), Magness, Partridge, Pope, Thatcher and Vaughan.  
Also participating: Malcolm Ramsden (clerk), Verne Heath (rfo) (via Zoom) and eighty four members of the public.

### **AGENDA**

#### **1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend. The first fifteen minutes of the meeting will be available for the public to express a view or ask a question on relevant matters on the agenda. The public and members of the press are also welcome to stay and observe the rest of the meeting (subject to any items considered as confidential within the terms of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960).

*In response to questions, members stated that the District Council had put forward a 51 page document commenting on the Neighbourhood Plan which had, in the main, been accepted and that the proposed Local Green Gap of the 'Circle of Oaks' had been retained despite repeated requests from District for it to be removed.*

*Regarding the insurance cover for the pavilion, circumstances under which the building might not be covered in respect of how close the bonfire might be placed were highlighted with the new charity insurance provider now insisting on any bonfire being at least 75m away, and the Carnival Society's insurance showing that 15m would be sufficient although it was noted that the two policies were for different elements of cover; public liability, event and fire. The charity are looking at additional insurance cover to avoid the bonfire having to be moved away from the pavilion and early indications seemed that it might be possible with costs thought to be in the region of £1,800.*

*The Carnival Society stated that their safety management plan had to be agreed in the Spring by police, ambulance, fire, etc., bodies and it would be too late to make changes at this late stage. The abridged version of the bonfire distance limit section of the insurance policy being circulated, far from simplifying the issue, had resulted in the opposite being the case and had resulted in numerous items of clarifying correspondence.*

*All agreed that, on renewal, the insurance policies would need to be fit for purpose in that, if possible, all the different activities that hirers undertake (bonfires, bouncy castles, inflatables, mid-summer magic attractions, etc.) would need cover.*

*In turning to the proposal put forward by Swansea Enterprise Inc. through their representative, Parker Dann, the chairman made it clear that the proposal was not related to the outcome of any planning application in respect of the 'Circle of Oaks' land. Chair declared that legal advice would be sought regarding the land owner's offer. A suggestion by a member of the public was made that it might be a missed opportunity to reject an offer of a large amount of cash which could be used for improvements around the parish that might not otherwise come our way. Various other points were aired relating to other elements of the offer; protection using s.106 clause, how much to maintain any land transferred into Council care, Judicial Review condition, lack of detailed layout maps/plans, District incomplete work on SHELAA and Local Plan. Timing of the acceptance, or otherwise, of the Neighbourhood Plan would have a big impact on any CIL monies with a possibility of acceptance of the Local Plan before the Neighbourhood Plan being implemented could necessitate a lengthy review of the Neighbourhood Plan.*

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are invited to make any declaration of personal or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda and are reminded to make any declarations at any stage during the meeting if it then becomes apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue is to be considered.

*Cllr. Pope declared his continuing interest in matters relating to his association with Church Marks Green Management Co. Ltd. and as trustee/director of the Community Land Trust.*

*Cllr. Freezer declared her interests as a member of the Carnival Society and trustee/director of the Community Land Trust.*

**0606** **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders for the chair to explain the process regarding agenda items to a member of the public.

**0607** **RESOLVED** to Re-instate Standing Orders.

**3. APOLOGIES** – to receive apologies for absence  
*None.*

#### **4. ADMINISTRATION**

4.1 To consider new appointments to the Planning Committee

*Cllr. Butcher offered to be appointed as a member of the Planning Committee. No other members expressed an interest.*

*Following a proposal by Cllr. Freezer and seconding by Cllr. Pope*

**0608** **RESOLVED** to approve Cllr. Butcher's appointment as a member of the Planning Committee.

#### **5. PLANNING**

5.1 Planning application:-

*WD/2023/1467/F for land north of 2 Estate Cottages, Heathfield Road, Halland, BN8 6PW*

*Members noted comment from Cllr. Partridge that the development didn't meet the standards contained in our emerging Neighbourhood Plan with Cllr. Butcher considering the development to be an overdevelopment with Cllr. Magness offering support but not in the applications present format. A proposal by Cllr. Vaughan that the response be that it would be looked upon favourably if there were fewer bedrooms and following the design statement in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan with solar, electric vehicle charging points and water recycling was not supported. The chairman highlighted that the County Highways response had mentioned a number of changes that they would like to have put in place.*

*Following a proposal by Cllr. Magness and seconding by Cllr. Thatcher*

**0609** **RESOLVED** to respond that Council look favourably at development on this site but with a different design and size of houses.

5.2 Neighbourhood Plan:-

*Motion – to consider reviewing the draft Neighbourhood Plan in view of the changes recommended by Wealden District Council and to ensure the plan meets with the requirements of National Planning Policy Framework.*

*Chair explained that the changes recommended by the District Council were contained in a 51 page document with concern that without agreeing to make some more changes that the Plan might not pass District's process for submission.*

**0610** **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to hear Jonathan Walker's views and details of how the comments were responded to in the Plan.

**0611** **RESOLVED** to Re-instate Standing Orders.

*The originally tabled motion failed to receive support.*

*Following a proposal by Cllr. Vaughan and seconding by Cllr. Freezer*

**0612** **RESOLVED** to submit the latest versions of the Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents to District for submission under Regulation 15.

5.3 To consider the proposal put forward by Swansea Enterprises Inc. through their representative Parker Dann:-

*'The landowner is willing to incorporate the following into a proposal:*

*8 plots for Community Land Trust;*

*Additional Allotments ; and*

*£500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Pounds) subject to caveats; or*

*£1,000,000 (One Million Pounds) contingent on the Parish Council's support throughout the planning application and subject to caveats – namely All of the items listed are only due upon the grant of planning permission by Wealden District Council and contingent upon there being no judicial review. In the event that an appeal is necessary, or funds are needed to contest a judicial review, the monies would be diverted to resource these endeavours.'*

*They would also seek a development that broadly aligns with Neighbourhood Plan Policy 1 as far as it concerns housing mix, explore ways in which we can make additional parking provision over and above East Sussex County Council's standards and also explore the use of Design Codes to ensure the final design of the scheme is reflective of the Neighbourhood Plan's aspirations.*

*This excludes the Circle of Oaks development as it will be the subject of a separate application.*

*It has been suggested that the landowner's planning team could play a part in the delivery of a planning permission for a new pavilion. This could potentially be linked to the planning application and submitted as part of it with the work necessary to support the application undertaken at the landowner's expense. This work is likely to include planning consultancy fees, architectural fees and ecology fees. Alternatively, they would be willing to submit the application subsequently.*

*Proposal – To request further details of the offer being made and legal agreements and to consider the planning application very carefully when it is submitted in full and review this offer in the context of that planning application.*

*Cllrs. highlighted the uncertainty regarding how watertight any proposal might be and commented on the lack of details at this stage as well as how many elements were outside the control of Council.*

*Following a proposal by Cllr. Butcher and seconding by Cllr. Cole*

**0613 RESOLVED** to approve costs of up to £5,000 to obtain legal advice on the legality of the offer and advice as to how we might proceed.

## **6. FINANCE**

### **6.1 Health & Safety requirements**

*Two companies have offered their services with regard to provision of a full package including Health & Safety requirements and policies, risk assessments, COSHH, etc., etc. Quote A from a Manchester based company (online) and quote B from a company based in Burgess Hill with site visits included.*

*Following a proposal by Cllr. Vaughan and seconding by Cllr. Freezer*

**0614 RESOLVED** to proceed with taking on the Health and Safety services provided by Complete Health and Safety, based in Burgess Hill, at a cost of £900.

Chairmanship of the meeting passed to Cllr. Vaughan.

### **6.2 To consider grant to East Hoathly and Halland War Memorial Sports Ground**

*Funds required (amount unknown at present) to meet additional costs of insurance relating to bonfire cover for the pavilion.*

*In addition to possible insurance costs of up to £2,000 and further £1,000 is required to cover anticipated outgoings during the rest of the year.*

*Following a proposal by Cllr. Vaughan and seconding by Cllr. Pope*

**0615 RESOLVED** to grant the sum of £3,000 to the East Hoathly and Halland War Memorial Sports Ground charity.

Chairmanship of the meeting reverted back to Cllr. Freezer.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note that the next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2023  
at 7.00 pm at the Village Hall, East Hoathly

*Noted.*

*Meeting closed at 8.35pm*

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