

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

Meeting of the Planning Committee on **22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2024 at 7.00pm.**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

In attendance: Cllrs. Butcher, Freezer (chair), Partridge, Pope and Thatcher.  
Also participating: Malcolm Ramsden (clerk) and twenty four members of the public.

### **AGENDA**

*Please note that meetings are recorded. Recordings are destroyed following adoption of the meeting minutes.*

#### **0. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

*Cllr. Freezer, as chair of Parish Council in the absence of an elected chair of the Planning Committee.*

#### **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 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).

*Chair explained that Council had been asked to submit comments again on this application, first seen last year, following the substantial number of revisions made by the applicant and that residents also have the opportunity to add further comments to any previously submitted comments.*

*By way of an element of summary, Cllr. Thatcher reported the main changes as being three less houses with sole owner numbers being reduced from 12 to 10, those available for rent from 6 to 5 and shared ownership houses capped at two. This would involve a reduction in housing numbers of one each in each of the 2, 3 and 4 bed properties. Other changes being proposed are to access, road widths, parking and drainage.*

*Comments from the floor covered:-*

*Successful objection to this proposal to thwart access for possible future developments on adjacent Tourles Farm land.*

*The past 14 failures to gain approval to develop the site.*

*Damage to the existing oak trees.*

*Loss of some trees, green space and character to the area.*

*Feeling of being ignored by Wealden District Council.*

*Road width as being sufficient.*

#### **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.*

3. **APOLOGIES** – to receive apologies for absence  
*Apologies received and reasons accepted from Cllr. Vaughan.*

4. **MINUTES**

- 4.1 To resolve that the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman  
*Following a proposal by Cllr. Butcher and seconding by Cllr. Thatcher*  
**RESOLVED** to approve that the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 be taken as read and be signed by the Chair.

5. **PLANNING**

- 5.1 Current application under consideration  
Application No. WD/2023/2516/MAJ  
Application Type: Major Application - Full  
Location: LAND OFF SOUTH STREET, EAST HOATHLY, BN8 6DS  
Description: ERECTION OF 20 NO. DWELLINGS (INCLUDING 35% AFFORDABLE),  
ACCESS, LANDSCAPING AND OTHER ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE.

*Cllr. Partridge stated that he could see no additional benefit that would make Council change its view and that there isn't a pressing need for more houses to be built in the village especially on a site that is a much loved, great visual amenity and emphasised the potential loss of wildlife and character. Chair reminded members that the housing needs figure for the village is already met by the number of houses included in the recently approved applications. Cllr, Pope felt that none of the amendments reflected our previous concerns.*

*Following a proposal by Cllr. Butcher and seconding by Cllr. Pope*  
**RESOLVED** to strongly object to any development on the site as the need for the green corridor outweighs the need for more housing and our original objections still stand with wording to be circulated for approval (see appendix A).

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note that the next meeting will be of the Full Council and will be held on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 at 7.00pm.

*Noted.*

Meeting closed at 7.35pm

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## Appendix A

WD/2023/2516/MAJ - LAND OFF SOUTH STREET, EAST HOATHLY BN8 6DS

Members met last night and continue (see below for November, 2023 submission) to strongly object to any development on this site.

None of the newly submitted documents, plans, illustrations or sections (including the reduction in numbers) go any way to overcome our earlier points and re-iterate that more housing is not needed unlike the green corridor which is needed, and must be maintained.

23January, 2024

November, 2023 submission:-

East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council strongly objects to this application as it would adversely impact on the setting of the designated East Hoathly Conservation Area and it would have a noticeable and significantly adverse impact, by virtue of the positive contribution that the site currently makes being, as it is, included as a 'Local Green Gap/Space' in the recently submitted Neighbourhood Plan. The proposal would not enhance or better reveal the significance of the Conservation Area and would not make a positive contribution due to the inappropriate location, design and form of the development within its setting and, therefore, continued rejection, as with the previous 14 applications relating to this site since 1961, would continue to be appropriate.

This application for 20 homes is on a green field site outside the designated boundary of East Hoathly and not needed with some 200 extra homes now being provided at Paddock Green and consent for a further up to 55 homes adjacent to this application site. At a recent and earlier planning meeting, residents voiced their concerns and complaints regarding the capacity of the school, the difficulties of getting doctor's appointments, the marginal effectiveness of the utilities (electricity supply, water, drainage, foul water capacity, etc.), the severe impact on biodiversity, the green corridor for wildlife, potential to damage root structure of 'protected' trees (especially that of the oak trees that gave rise to the name Circle of Oaks), traffic congestion and parking and the poor state of maintenance of roads and pavements. This leads us to believe that the infrastructure of the Parish is at or beyond capacity. Further development on this scale would certainly exacerbate this situation.

November, 2023