

## HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Parish Centre, Adastra Park, Hassocks.

Attendees: Parish Councillors: Jane Baker; Kate Bailey; Judith Foot; Frances Gaudencio; Peter Gibbons; Bill Hatton; Sue Hatton; Chris Hobbs; & Ian Weir (Chairman)

Locum Clerk: Colin Hunt

#### **17/602 APOLOGIES**

602.1 To Accept Apologies for Absence.

Parish Councillors; Leslie Campbell; Justine Fisher; Nick Owens; Rev Darryl Sinclair and Victoria Standfast.

#### **17/603 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

603.1 Disclosure by Councillors of personal interests in matters on the agenda, and whether the Councillor regards their interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.

There were no declarations of interest at the onset of the meeting.

#### **17/604 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were 2 members of the public present, who both did not wish to speak.

#### **17/605 REPORTS**

##### **605.1 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

A letter had been received from the Department for the Communities and Local Government concerning the application by Rydon Homes Ltd for 130 dwellings to the rear of Friars Oak, London Road, Hassocks, Sussex : application number DM/15/0626 and dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017. (Appendix 1)

In view of the restrictive time scales Council was requested to consider and authorise a budget of up to £5,000 to cover the preparation of the pre-inquiry statement and subsequent evidence in respect of the inquiry.

The Chair of the NPWG, Cllr Bill Hatton introduced his report (Appendix 2) and concluded that in his opinion it was paramount to

maintain the credibility of the Neighbourhood Plan and that of the Parish Council and emphasised the need for the Council to be professionally represented at the upcoming enquiry.

Cllr Hatton had been impressed by the work that Dowsett Mayhew, the Council's Planning Consultancy, had done for the Council to date and suggested that in view of the time scale that Dowsett Mayhew also be commissioned to start work on preparing a pre-enquiry statement.

Cllr Hatton advised Council that, as a result of this 'call in' by the Department for the Communities and Local Government, the budget previously granted by Council in respect of the Judicial Enquiry (refer 16/580.1) in the sum of £5k would now no longer be required and that this budget would in effect be recovered and merely reassigned.

A number of councillors engaged in the discussions and some concern was expressed regarding the likelihood of there being further expenses in the event that the decision by the Secretary of State did not favour the Council.

Both Cllr Hatton and Weir were of the opinion that in those circumstances it would seem pointless to continue further action but nevertheless in any event Council agreement would be needed to continue action.

At this point the Chair raised the motion that 'Council authorise a budget of up to £5k to cover the preparation of the pre-inquiry statement and subsequent evidence in respect of the inquiry into application DM/15/0626 by Dowsett Mayhew'

Cllr Sue Hatton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

**17/606 URGENT MATTERS**

Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chairman for noting and/or inclusion on a future agenda.

There were none

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm.

Chairman's Signature -----

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS INCLUDED WITH AGENDA**

### **APPENDIX 1**

A letter received from the Department for the Communities and Local Government concerning the application by Rydon Homes Ltd for 130 dwellings to the rear of Friars Oak, London Road, Hassocks, Sussex : application number DM/15/0626 and dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017, advising Council that the Secretary of State will be calling in the application.

### **APPENDIX 2**

Report from the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Cllr Bill Hatton regarding.

Town and Country Planning (Inquiries Procedure Rules 2000) Application by Rydon Homes Ltd for 130 dwellings to the rear of Friars Oak, London Road, Hassocks, Sussex: application number DM/15/0623.