

HIGH HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL 2018 I IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE STREET, HIGH HALSTOW AT 8.00 pm

PRESENT: Cllr George Crozer Chairman
Cllr Martin Andrews
Cllr Ray Collins
Cllr Michael O'Hanlon
Cllr Christine Watson
Cllr Brian Williams
Cllr Linda Atkinson
Miss Cat Bloomfield Clerk

In attendance 50 members of the public

Item no

Minute no 2017/18/

*Action
point*

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Bill Khatkar
Gary Jearet

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND MEMBERS' REGISTER OF INTERESTS

None.

3 Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomes the public. The chair informed the public that there would be ample opportunity for them to ask questions regarding the presentation.

4 Medway Council Local Plan

Presentation by Catherine Smith and Dave Harris of Medway Council Regarding the Neighbourhood plan. (appendix i)

The chairman invited the public to ask questions which included the following –

If central government intervened and were to use their method of housing distribution across the Medway Towns – would the peninsula be better off?

Mr Harris confirmed that he was unable to answer this as he did not know, but that he suspected that this would not be the case.

All scenarios within the local plan proposal would have a significant impact on the infrastructure of the peninsula – are there plans to

build a new road onto the peninsula relieving the traffic on four elms hill and the A228 bypass?

Mr Harris states that the infrastructure of the peninsula would be dependent on the success of a bid to central government – if successful, this money would be used to improve the highways and to develop and passenger train to main lines and central London. He was unable to comment on where and if there would be another route onto the peninsula other than four elms hill.

Will the roads be built before the houses?

Mr Harris said that this would be a discussion that would be had with the development companies – he stated that he expected the developers to be reluctant to invest in the infrastructure of the peninsula before the houses had been built and sold.

If the grant for infrastructure is not achieved will you still build the houses?

Mr Harris stated that without the infrastructure grant that I would be untenable to build the number of houses that the local plan scenarios proposes.

How can we check that our comments on the local plan have been registered and taken notice of?

Mrs Smith confirmed that all public comments that have been made are published in the final consultation report.

Mr Harris also stated that at the start of the proposal the council reached out to local land owners and asked who would be interested in selling any land that they have – the proposals within the plan use the land that has been made available to them by those that wish to sell their land for development.

Mr Harris also confirmed that building at Grain or Kingsnorth is not an option due to the amount of special protections in place regarding wildlife and safety in regards to the coastal path.

The plan if accepted will be adopted in 2020 – will the houses that are built between now and then on the peninsula be taken off of the final number that is being proposed? Mr Harris was unable to answer this.

Members of the public also raised concerns about the Schools and Doctors surgeries on the peninsula being put under more pressure as a result of the housing influx – Mr Harris confirmed that this was an issue – but that as well as an increase in housing – this is also due to difficulty in recruiting GP's.

Mrs Smith confirmed that she would send a copy of the presentation to the Clerk so that this could be made available to all of the attendees and any other members of the public. Mr Harris also urged all in attendance to ensure that they submitted their feedback regarding the local plan to Medway Council.

The Clerk updated the meeting regarding the Neighbourhood plan steering group and what the aim of the neighbourhood plan is. Members of the public were informed about the Facebook page that has been set up, and the website updates in order to keep people abreast of any updates and consultations that will happen. It was also agreed that there would be a dedicated page in the High Halstow times in order to inform residents that do not access social media or the internet so that they are aware of what is going on.

- 6** Deangate Ridge
Since the agenda was written – Medway Council have taken the decision after it was referred back to council to go ahead with the closure of Deangate Ridge – as this was the case – it was not discussed.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public and the councillors for attending and closed the meeting at 10.00 pm.