

**HURST GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
STEERING GROUP**

MEETING #17 - MINUTES

17th March 2020 at 7.30pm

(held via public teleconference as a precaution against the spread of coronavirus)

Attendees: Andrew Brown (in the Chair), Colleen Burt, Duncan McNab, Graham Browne, Tania McNab.

Apologies: Bob Collins, Ian Hirst, Steve Wright.

2 members of the public were present.

1. Welcome

Members were welcomed to the meeting. The Chair welcomed members of the public, reminding everyone that in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan Terms of Reference, that this meeting was a meeting held in public, not a public meeting.

2. Update from the Parish Council on COVID-19 coronavirus local response

Cllr. Graham Browne provided a brief update on the current situation as it related to local activities and reported how he thought the community was pulling together. In particular, highlighting the fantastic work being coordinated by two local residents, Talena Sharp and Kirsty-Jayne Bassett.

3. Discussion about the neighbourhood plan in light of coronavirus situation

Members held a discussion, concluding that for now neighbourhood plan activities should continue - with all meetings and interactions being held virtually. The Chair reported that he thought it likely that restrictions would likely be placed on public gatherings, which would probably include neighbourhood plan referendums.

4. Neighbourhood plan budget and expenditure review

- 4.1. Members reviewed and noted the neighbourhood plan financial records for FY 17/18.
- 4.2. Members reviewed and noted the neighbourhood plan financial records for FY 18/19, noting the actual FY 18/19 cost to Hurst Green Parish ratepayers of being £2,936.66.
- 4.3. Members reviewed and noted FY 19/20 neighbourhood plan spending to-date. The Chair confirmed that he had raised a Parish Council motion to ensure the previous years neighbourhood plan underused budget of £12,345.15 would be carried forward, as per the neighbourhood plan terms of reference.
- 4.4. Members discussed funding for FY 20/21, noting that it was expected that the bulk of expenditure relating to the plan would come this year, but that it was hoped that the central government grant scheme would reopen shortly, which would likely cover the majority of anticipated consultancy support costs.

5. Progress on the proposal for our leisure/sport plan

Members decided to defer this item to the next meeting due to Ian being unable to attend due to his work commitments in relation to coronavirus.

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6. Discussion on external consultancy support to help write plan

Members received an update on the expressions of interest and CV's that had been received (and previously circulated) from Jim Boot / Alison Eardley and also from Action in Rural Sussex. It was agreed to request a proposal from Jim Boot / Alison Eardley, and that Jim and Alison should be invited to address the Steering Group remotely, ideally one evening, perhaps at our next meeting in April.

The Chair also reported that Locality had contacted him in relation to continuing to fund the neighbourhood plan's affordable housing efforts, and that they had supported the appointment of Alison Eardley to conduct this work subject to a successful proposal.

7. Update on planned business survey

Members resolved that due to the current situation, to delay the decision over whether to launch a business survey until the next steering group meeting.

8. Housing items:

8.1. Update on status of the HG 35, Foundry Close site

Cllr. Graham Browne in his role as a District Councillor provided a brief update, explaining that he understood that the site owner was in the process of submitting a revised scheme that might include affordable homes, and that he thought a decision on this planning application was expected imminently.

8.2. Residents feedback on the outline proposals received on site HG 11, Burgh Hill.

The Chair invited members of the public to address the meeting. Steering Group members listened to feedback from two residents of Burgh Hill over the conceptual designs for the HG 11 site that had been distributed for public feedback.

Steering Group members shared thoughts and responded to questions from residents about Rother District Council's 75 new homes allocation for Hurst Green, the Neighbourhood Plan process, the call for sites process and the HG 11 site. The Chair took an action to confirm when the rapid grassland assessment was conducted on the HG 11 site. [answer: October 2019].

Concluding 45 minutes of valuable discussion, the Chair summarised, explaining that as per the article published in the village magazine, that the Steering Group / Parish Council had not come to any decisions over recommendations for sites, and that the final decision would be in the hands of local people in the form of a local referendum. The Chair invited residents to place any feedback that they wished in writing, so that these could be passed to the proper Officers of the District and the Parish Council, and in the case of comments on the proposed scheme, provided to the site owner and their agents to afford them the opportunity of comment.

8.3. Update on the affordable home provision

The Chair gave an update on the Locality supported piece of work to look at the affordable housing requirements for Hurst Green, following the work completed by AECOM in 2019.

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Locality are awaiting a proposal from their consultant, before deciding whether to award (in conjunction with the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government) the Hurst Green Neighbourhood Plan with a grant to undertake this work.

8.4. Update regarding contact with Hastoe Housing Association

The Chair reported that unfortunately he had not received any further followup from the Hastoe representative, who was due to be sending details of when they could visit Hurst Green.

8.5. Update on any newly received site proposals

There had been no newly received site proposals, despite a prompt being sent last week from Steve and Andrew.

9. Discussion regarding next visit by the District Council

The Chair reported that Rother District Council had enquired as to our updated timeline for the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that the Chair should contact Frank Rallings to discuss asking the District Council to address the Steering Group.

10. Update on the site of the former community shop

District / Parish Councillor Browne advised that the Parish Council were currently running an expression of interest exercise to identify interest in the property.

11. Roundtable progress thoughts / any matters for next meeting

District / Parish Councillor Browne proposed a further update on COVID-19 coronavirus local response.

Local residents thanked the Steering Group members for their time during the meeting.

12. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 21st April 2020 at 7.30pm.