

Harberton Parish Neighbourhood Plan (HNP)
Extraordinary Meeting of the Steering Group
7.00pm Thursday 29th May 2025 Harberton Parish Hall

Harberton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (HNPSG) Members: Francesca Smith, Guy Soulsby, Jono Stirrup.

Minute Secretary/Parish Clerk: Cat Radford

Apologies: Anne Watson

Members of the public: 6

Public Session

- The Chair welcomed the public to the meeting, introduced the purpose of the meeting and introduced items on the agenda.
- A MoP commented on the number of objections that have been raised on the portal in response to the Outline Planning Application at the Ford Farm site.
- Queries and comments were raised about the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan, the process of a Parish Council responding to a live planning application and the challenges that can occur when these two processes overlap or become out of sync.
- A comment was made with regard to the strategic nature of Neighbourhood Planning, noting that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group should seek to separate out issues relating to the live Outline Planning Application, for example, the specific circumstances concerning the size of sewage pipes.
- The HNPSG was asked for an update on the CLT. It was noted that this fell outside of the remit of the Neighbourhood Plan as the site already has planning permission. However, the housing numbers that the site brings forward will contribute to target housing numbers.

Agenda

1. **Apologies** were received as above.

2. **Co-option of members** There was a discussion about new membership, focusing on the difference between members 'co-opted' and 'elected' to join the Steering Group, the differences between committee membership and membership of working groups. Jo Poulter was willing to join a working group around the consultation questionnaire, providing clarity around differing types of membership was clear.

RESOLVED: For the Clerk and Chair to liaise on updating the Steering Group Terms of Reference to ensure clarity around differing roles.

3. **Vote to appoint a sub-group to produce a work stream** Jo Poulter volunteered to support this work, proposing to work with Anne Watson to develop a workstream that included a timeline and responsibilities.

4. **Discussion of the OPA on FF and timeline of events** It was commented that the application at Ford Farm and the Parish Council's resolution to support the application with comments has significance for the timeline of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that there was some perception that the validity of the Neighbourhood Plan has been undermined by the Parish Council's resolution. This has led to the Chair calling this Extraordinary Meeting.

5. **Discussion of engaging clause 7a to allow the Parish Council to readdress the OPA** It was noted that clause 7a of the Parish Council's Standing Orders enable a committee of the Parish Council to recommend that a Parish Council revisit a previous resolution. The resolution to which this relates is the Parish Council's resolution on the Outline Planning Application concerning the site at Ford Farm.

There was a discussion on the available options for the Parish Council's recommendation to the Local Planning Authority, and what grounds would be appropriate for the HNPSG to make the recommendation to revisit that previous decision; i.e. its relevance to the work of the HNPSG.

RESOLVED: To ask the Parish Council to revisit their decision based on the concerns of the Steering Group that the decision making of process of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee has been put out of sync as a result of the decision on the OPA. The Harberton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would like to recommend that they revise their decision to neither to support nor object to the application but give their comments.

Meeting closed.