



Maresfield Parish Council

REPRESENTING THE VILLAGES OF MARESFIELD, NUTLEY & FAIRWARP

DRAFT Minutes of a Meeting of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group held remotely via Zoom on Thursday 25th March at 2.00pm

Present: Cllr M Craddock (Chair), Cllr Mrs L Reeves, Cllr R Hunter, Mr F Taylor, Mr L Frost, Mr R Smith, Mr L Foskett, Mrs M Turner and Mrs C Goossens (Clerk).

A. Public session.

Mr John Clare made the following comments:

- Attending the meeting as lead landowner for the land South of Maresfield which was put forward by Land Logic following WDC's recent call for sites.
- Matthew Utting (Planning Consultant for Land Logic) has been in touch with Mr F Taylor.
- This land is being assessed by the Parish Council and WDC as part of the NDP and Local Plan preparation.
- If development is to be accepted on this land, it must be locally led with affordable housing, retirement bungalows and community spaces.
- It is not Land Logic's intention to submit a hostile application.

The public session closed.

1. Apologies for absence. Cllr D Watson

2. Declarations of interests. None.

3. To Agree non-Councillor Members of the Committee.

The Chairman proposed the following be agreed as non-Councillor members of the NDP SG:

Mr A Foskett, Mr R Smith, Mr F Taylor, Mrs M Turner and Mr L Frost

This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Reeves and **Agreed** unanimously.

4. To Approve the minutes, if there are any, of the meeting held on Thursday 26th November 2019.

None.

5. Matters arising from these minutes not covered under this agenda.

None.

The Chairman together with Cllr A Strevens recently attended a WDC Cluster Meeting together with 4/5 other local parishes and Uckfield Town Council.

These Cluster Meetings are being held throughout the District as part of the policy for engaging with local communities as the new Local Plan is being prepared.

The meeting was attended by (inter alia) Kelly Sharp, Cllr Ann Newton, CCllr Roy Galley and DCllr Peter Roundell.

With reference to the recent Direction of Travel Consultation, meeting participants were asked to revert with information pertaining to "What are the three most important things to us as a Parish?" "Do we think there are any gaps in the Direction of Travel document?"

6. To discuss the current position regarding finalising the Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Draft Plan is "ready to go" except for anything to do with housing allocation numbers and some updates which will result from the General Survey which is scheduled to go out in the coming weeks.

Mr Taylor reported the following:

- 35 sites in the Parish have been put forward under the recent SHELAA, 12 of which had already been submitted under the previous call for sites and some of which have already received planning approval.
- We have contact information for these original 12 but await details for the other 23 landowners. WDC are working on facilitating contact for us.
- 5 responses have been received to date but only 2 sites have provided sufficient information to facilitate an assessment. Mrs Turner, Mr Taylor and Mr Smith are carrying out the assessments.
- Sites will need to demonstrate “Suitability/Availability/Achievability” to obtain a favourable assessment.
- The NDP looks at all the above and considers Parishioners views.
- It was noted that it is difficult for WDC to establish “Achievability” of a site as they are often unaware of any restrictions due to access issues or covenants.
- A separate Sustainability Assessment is being carried out in tandem with the SHELAA work. LF confirmed that this is 90% complete.
- WDC have an anticipated publication date for the Draft Local Plan of Spring 2022.
- A key component of the Local Plan is the number of homes to be allocated to Maresfield. It is hoped that this information will be available to us before the LP is published.
- There are three potentially deliverable sites in Nutley, submitted in the SHELAA, which lie outside the 400m exclusion zone.
- **ACTION:** FT to forward site assessment information to LF.
- **ACTION:** FT/LF/MT/RS to “walk” submitted sites.
- **ACTION:** All to look at Hailsham NDP.

7. To discuss General Survey.

The purpose of this is to update the evidence base and obtain the views of parishioners.

8. To discuss Housing Needs Survey.

This has been sent to James Preece at WDC for him to let us know if Wealden’s Housing Needs Survey can provide the information we need. If so, we will only need to send out the General Survey with a couple of questions relating to Housing Needs.

9. Date of next meeting – TBC. Informal meetings will continue work on the preparation of the NDP and site assessments.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 14.36.