

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORTH HORSHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014 AT 7.30pm  
AT ROFFEY MILLENNIUM HALL**

**Present:** Councillors M. Brakes, G. Porter\*, Mrs K. Burgess, P. Burgess, N. Butler, Mrs R. Ginn, R. Knight, M. Loates\*, T. Rickett, Mrs P. Rutherford\*, D. Searle, M. Senior\*, S. Torn, R. Turner, I. Wassell\*, R. Wilton and Mrs S. Wilton

\* denotes absence

**In attendance:** Sue Kemp, Parish Clerk  
Stephen Rennie, Committee Clerk

c. 40 members of the public

---

**FC/106/14 PUBLIC FORUM**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting; and explained the purpose of the meeting

**FC/107/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors Loates, Porter and Mrs P. Rutherford

**FC/108/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors P. Burgess and Torn each declared a **Personal Interest** as they were also District Councillors

**FC/109/14 PUBLIC FORUM**

**A representative from Rusper Parish Council** commented that they were in support of the alternative proposals as laid out in the document provided by North Horsham Parish Council, and that they remained strongly opposed to original Horsham District Council (HDC) proposal of development North of the A264. He also commented that the Parish Council's alternative proposal document outlined objections to the development North of the A264 which were in line with their own, apart from the fact that Rusper Parish Council were also opposed to further development at Ifield as they believe all coalescence must be stopped.

**Geoff Richardson** thanked the Parish Council for its efforts in producing the alternative proposal document, and was pleased to see it had plenty of good ideas, none of which included developing beyond the natural boundary of the A264. Mr Richardson also commented that there is another alternative proposal being prepared and by being able to offer two alternative proposals to HDC, they must consider all ideas and find the best and most sustainable option. Mr Richardson did comment, however, on the possibility of combining the two alternative proposals into one document in order to enable there to be two clear options for HDC to consider may be more beneficial.

**Councillors R. Wilton, P. Burgess, and Turner** all agreed with the idea of collaborating with Frances Haigh, who is leading the other alternative proposal, in order to make one credible document for HDC to consider.

**A representative from Rusper Parish Council** disagreed on only having one alternative proposal, and that HDC can choose the best option out of all alternatives.

**Councillor Burgess** commented that input from other surrounding Parish Council's and the Neighbourhood Council's should also be sought, to collaborate views and objections. Councillor Burgess also commented on the need to look at all arguments from the Interim Sustainability Report and address them, and commented that this report included nothing of the surplus of empty office buildings already in the town.

**Councillor Torn** suggested that the next stage would be to seek professional comments from Planning Officers on the proposal document, and then to meet with the relevant other interested parties to move forward.

**Wayne Stuchbery of RAGE** commented that HDC proposal for development north of the A264 is not credible and it is important to not lose sight of that when preparing alternative strategies. He also commented that HDC's method has been backwards i.e. choosing a site for development then hand-picking presentations to justify this decision rather than gathering all relevant information prior to deciding on development sites.

**District and County Councillor Jim Rae** commented that if an alternative is being put forward, that it is important to take note of Sustainability Report that identifies sites which are not suitable for development, and whichever site is chosen clear evidence will need to be provided to support it, and it must be compliant with National Planning Policy Framework.

**The Chairman of the Council** suggested setting a date of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014 as the deadline for meeting with other interested parties in order to be able to finalise the document in time for HDC consideration at their meeting in late April.

**FC/110/14 ALTERNATIVE STRATEGY REPORT**

Taking into account the full discussion

**IT WAS RESOLVED**

- (a) **That the Chairman of Council, the Parish Clerk and two other Parish Councillors meet with others to consider a joint Alternative Strategy Report**
- (b) **That amendments be made to the Parish Council's draft Alternative Strategy Report as appropriate, prior to any additional meeting, to enable full consideration**
- (c) **A further meeting prior to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014 be convened, if necessary**

**FC/111/14 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported that there would be a closure of Lambs Farm Road (from Rusper Road to Hawkesbourne Road) on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014, to enable carriageway resurfacing

**IT WAS RESOLVED**

**To note the Chairman's Announcement**

**FC/112/14 DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014 (scheduled)**

**FC/113/14 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

On the grounds that the discussion of the next agenda item would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, the press and the public were excluded from the meeting.

**FC/114/14 DISPOSAL OF PARISH OWNED LAND AT NORTH HEATH HALL**

Members noted receipt of the Clerk's Confidential Report. Following discussion

**IT WAS RESOLVED**

**That the disposal of the land in question be agreed, in principle, subject to -**

- (a) a formal Undertaking as to the reimbursement of the Council's reasonable legal costs, including disbursements, whether or not the matter proceeds to completion; and**
- (b) that the Council's legal advisors, Hedleys, are appointed to investigate the Title to the land, including investigations as to the pre-emption clause and covenants**
- (c) That a further Report is prepared for the March Council meeting (20<sup>th</sup> March) as to the investigation to the Title**

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm

..... Signed

.....Dated