

WEST HOATHLY PARISH COUNCIL

representing Highbrook, Selsfield, Sharpthorne, Tyes Cross and West Hoathly

Minutes of the West Hoathly Annual Parish Assembly Held on Monday 7th March 2022 on Zoom

There were 22 people present

1) Chairman's Welcome

Douglas Denham St Pinnock, as chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Amy Marshall and Michael Curties

3) Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 4th May 2021

The minutes of the meeting of 4th May 2021 were agreed and the Chairman will sign them as a true record at a later date.

4) A short presentation from Flo Churchill, Chartered Town Planner, on housing in Mid Sussex, followed by a Q&A session

Flo Churchill shared a presentation covering the following,

- Housing in the South East – the numbers debate
- Mid Sussex – Housing Land Supply Statement
- Mid Sussex Local Plan
- Strategic Site Proposals
- Duty to Cooperate Issues
- Local Housing Assessment
- SHELAA
- Sustainability Appraisal and objectives
- Statement of Community Involvement

The presentation is available to view on the West Hoathly Parish Council website via the link below:

westhoathly.gov.uk

Questions

It has been widely reported that people are leaving the UK post Brexit, we also have the continuing need to balance mental health needs and the needs for green spaces, what are your views on this?

Flo Churchill agreed and noted that it had recently been raised in the House of Commons. It is important that people remain involved. Appropriate to wait and see how the government produce the levelling up bill.

West Hoathly Parish is in a unique position, being the gateway to Sussex, the impact of additional housing is huge. What compensation do we get when we are getting the additional traffic?

There is no compensation. Environment Act may be worth looking at to dampen down plans.

Horsham District Plan is currently paused due to position statement issued by Natural England over the concerns of the impact on the river Arun.

The Draft District Plan has currently been paused but the committee voted to take look at the Draft District Plan.

If the leader of the council has ordered it to be paused, it will be. Once the issues have been resolved it is important that Town and Parish councils be involved as there are several hoops to get through. It may be beneficial to get local councils to have a joint approach. It is also important to keep an eye on any backdoor changes as many happen through budgeting.

Is there likely to be a change to S106 money?

Yes, changes are due to developer contributions, possible National Infrastructure Levy.

It was noted that MSDC are not currently part of CIL and are very out of sync with other district councils.

District Councillors to take comments on board

As a lease holder of a section of land that has been identified as a potential site on the Draft District Plan, I was unaware of the submitted site

If a site is in SHEELA, it is a potential site, it doesn't mean that it has been chosen or is deliverable. You don't have to own or control land to suggest a site.

West Hoathly Neighbourhood Plan was produced in 2014, it was disappointing that MSDC did not make its own plan until 2018/19 so there was delay in ours being adopted. Should our plan be revised?

We don't know when the levelling up bill will come forward. If you think it could be succinct quickly it may be worth considering.

Points to consider

- Need to be organised
- Need a neighbourhood plan organiser
- Look at funding available
- Need to meet eligibility
- Technical support

Local authorities are under a duty to help with Neighbourhood Plans.

Do you think levelling up bill will mean more affordable housing?

Affordable housing is not affordable, particularly in the Southeast. Those on the minimum wage are unable to purchase affordable housing.

Raw sewage is being pumped into the sea, what is the capacity of infrastructure to support this?

Should be able to find out via Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

How many sewage treatment works have been erected, are they keeping pace?

Utilities are under obligation to provide after development. The development pays for the additional infrastructure.

Those that move to the area cannot get registered with a local doctor's surgery and appointments are difficult to get.

20% of GPs are due to retire in the next 5 years. GPs are not available even if the practises are. There is a lack of funding and encouragement to get people through medical school.

There being no further questions, Flo Churchill was thanked by the Chairman and those in attendance, she then left the meeting.

5) Parishioners' Q&A session- An opportunity for general Q&A with the Parish Council

There were none but a member of the public expressed thanks to the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending.

The meeting closed at : 21.15