



ARDINGLY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Ardingly Parish Council held on Monday, 5th August 2013 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room at Hapstead Hall

Present:

Mr W Meldrum (Chairman)	Mr. K. Monk
Mr. M. Brixey (Vice Chair)	Mr. G. Ruse
Mrs. S. Chapman	Mrs P. Dennis
Mr D. Walker	Mr T. Clement
Mrs R. Chalk	

Apologies

Mr N Moorey
Mrs. F Rocks

In Attendance:

Mrs. S Mamoany (Clerk)
13 members of the public

During the public question time, the following questions were raised and answered by the Chair.

David Hill (surveyor) – Asked if the meeting this evening that was called at short notice was to promote Standgrove as the only site? The Chair responded by advising that this meeting had not been called for that purpose and was not an emergency meeting.

Ivan Yateman (owner of Butchers Field) – Advised that he had received a flyer through his letter box advising that his field was being put forward as a protected site and that no consultation with landowners had been made. The Chair responded by informing that at the NP Meeting last week the draft pre-submission ANP document was discussed and the group voted on land that would be put forward as Designated Green Spaces. Following the draft plan being signed off by the Parish Council, a six week consultation process would follow where everyone can comment and the NP Committee would consider these comments. Items can be removed from the plan and amendments made.

Mike Langburn expressed that he was concerned the village had not been kept up to date with how things were progressing and not enough publicity had been done to keep villagers updated, with no information on the website. The Chair agreed that the website has not been updated and it is something we need to improve on. This was partly due to being without a Clerk for some time. However, the six week consultation period would give villagers the opportunity to comment.

Tim Hughes raised concerns about the fact that Greenfield sites have been put forward for development and although understood the constraints that government were giving, surely we could use infill land and land in built up areas to accommodate any development required so as to preserve the character of the village. The Chair responded by explaining that the PC had looked to find sites in built up areas. However the evidence base showed that the Council needed to deliver 27 dwellings, 8 units of those being local affordable housing. Due to the fact that sites with 4 or less units do not have to provide affordable housing, if the village used smaller sites it would not be able to provide the affordable housing.

Hilary Smith asked why the Neighbourhood Plan was being pushed to be completed so early and how it would affect the enquiry, in addition she asked if we had received acceptance from Ardingly College that they would take 27 houses instead of the 37? The Chair advised that the PC had been working on the NP for 18 months producing evidence and background materials and then the consultant, Neil Homer had been appointed in April/May. The Chairman's understanding was that if the Neighbourhood Plan was nearing completion it would act as a safeguard and that if the Council did not have anything in place there would be a higher chance of both developments taking place. However, if the appeals are turned down, Standgrove could take 27 and not 37 houses. The PC do not have any documentation from the College to advise them that they will take 27 houses. The consultation period will most likely commence on the 12th August and will run for 6 weeks until the 23rd September.

Janet Boxhall asked if we could explain the consultation, was it a vote? The Chair explained that every household will receive a leaflet informing them of the consultation period, alongside posters and information on the website. All documents would be available to view and comments can be submitted to the Clerk during the 6 week period. Residents are not required to vote, this happens at the referendum following the public examination and acceptance of MSDC. If Standgrove Field was rejected we would then have to go back to the start again.

Janet Boxhall mentioned that MSDC had advised that Standgrove and all sites were not suitable. The Chair advised that unless we put some development site forward to accommodate the supply requirements we are not protected. If the appeals go through prior to the ANP being published we would be able to remove all sites as our requirement for housing would have been met.

Sandra Parrot felt that the Standgrove Site was not what the village wanted but what Ardingly College wanted. The Chair responded by confirming that all of the NP Committee have been involved and turned down Butchers Field on the basis that Standgrove was more likely to get through the referendum process.

Hilary Smith stated she had been present at a meeting a long time ago, where David Hadden had confirmed Standgrove had been accepted. The Chair stated he was not aware of such a meeting or decision.

David Hill advised that it was not true the plan will gather weight as it goes through the stages, as it is all dependent on the District Plan and that will not be passed at the earliest until January 2014. MSDC had previously turned down both sites and in the revised PHLLA no sites in Ardingly were suitable for development.

It was questioned if any Councillors had prejudicial interests in Ardingly College. Due to the meeting not being opened declarations of interest had not been declared at that stage. Councillor Sarah Chapman declared an interest and it was confirmed that she had not voted in any matters that involved site selection or Ardingly College and she had left the room during the discussions at the last NP Meeting.

<p>131.</p>	<p>Procedural Matters</p> <p>131.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr N Moorey and Mrs F Rocks</p> <p>131.2 SC declared a prejudicial interest in Standgrove Field. MB declared a prejudicial interest in items relating to South of England Agricultural Society</p>	
<p>132.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Plan Committee</p> <p>132.1 Following the Neighbourhood Plan meeting on the 30th July, policy 22 relating to the South of England Showground was discussed. Some minor amendments were agreed, however although the Showground has a Section 52 Agreement and Licensing Agreement in place it was felt that residents do not have control if the plan does not have a policy relating to the Showground and should the agreements that are in place now be renegotiated then the village would leave themselves open.</p> <p>Minor amendments were also made to policy 25 relating to the Bluebell Railway.</p> <p>Appendix B & C were completed, although the maps needed to be amended to show the correct policy numbers. The Chairman also needed to complete the foreword. Therefore, subject to the above and some font changes and photographs to be added, the draft Plan was complete.</p> <p>Seven members voted to approve and AGREE the final draft of the pre-submission Ardingly Neighbourhood Plan, one member abstained, one voted not in favour.</p> <p>132.2 The Strategic Environmental Assessment document has been prepared in consultation with the consultant, Neil Homer and MSDC. This document identifies and consults on environmental aspects of the pre-submission Plan and shows how the sustainable objectives are met within the plan. The final document was approved and AGREED by 8 members and one abstained.</p>	
<p>133.</p>	<p>Emergency Planning Committee</p> <p>133.1 WSCC has requested that they received Winter Management Plans from Parish Councils by the 30th August 2013. Therefore, a draft plan was sent through to them by the date required and this was circulated.</p> <p>It was reported that WSCC would fill the grit bins prior to the onset of winter, however, they will not refill over the winter months. The Parish Council would have to find a suitable storage location for the salt and arrange for the bins to be refilled over the winter months. This was being looked into and quotes obtained. EFP Gritting would be asked to attend an Emergency Planning Meeting on the 10th September to discuss the process so that Councillors can have a better understanding of the gritting and ploughing process.</p> <p>It was noted that the plan had an error regarding the amount of hippo bags and this would be discussed at the Emergency Planning Committee. With the exception of this amendment, the document was approved and AGREED unanimously.</p>	
<p>134.</p>	<p>Logo</p> <p>134.1 The final version of the logo should be ready by 9th August. Steve Trice from HHTCIC needed the logo urgently to have the van sign written and it was AGREED that the logo would be emailed round to Councillors for final approval.</p>	

135.	<p>Senior Railcards</p> <p>135.1 The Clerk had been advised by MSDC that some basic changes were happening with regard to senior railcards and ATOC would be issuing unique numbers instead of the voucher system. The resident will contact ATOC directly via phone or online to obtain the railcard. When renewals are due ATOC will contact the resident, no charges to the administrator and all payments will be made by the resident direct to ATOC. It was AGREED that the Council could see no issues with these changes and appointed the Clerk responsible to deal with this matter.</p> <p>135.2 The subsidy for 2014 /15 was discussed and it was AGREED that it would remain at £5.00.</p>	
136.	<p>Consultations</p> <p>136.1 A report on the basic details of the Community Infrastructure Levy was circulated and this was discussed. It was AGREED that we would put forward a comment of support, but adding that the Council felt the Village amount should be the same higher figure as Rural at £235.00.</p>	
137.	<p>Items for information only or inclusion on future agenda</p> <p>No items were reported</p>	
138.	<p>Future meeting dates</p> <p><u>September</u></p> <p>Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday, 3 September 2013</p> <p>Recreation & Open Spaces Committee Meeting – Tuesday, 17 September 2013</p>	

MEETING CLOSED 8.40pm