

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CRANBROOK & SISSINGHURST
NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP HELD ON 26th
NOVEMBER 2018

PRESENT: Cllr. Warne (in the Chair), Cllrs. Cook, Fletcher, Kemp (in part), Smith, Veitch, Lee Hatcher, Jeremy Boxall, Nem Goodman, Matthew Warne, Annie Hopper, Tally Wade, June Bell.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Hartley, Liz Daley,

The Chairman read out the following statement:

Members are required to declare any interests, dispensations, predetermination or lobbying on items on this agenda. Members are reminded that changes to the Register of Interests should be notified to the Clerk.

Cllr. Warne declared an interest under the site assessments regarding site 122 which had been put forward by a relative.

Cllr. Warne, Lee Hatcher, Matthew Warne, Annie Hopper, Tally Wade and June Bell all declared a personal interest as members of the CVLT (Crane Valley Land Trust).

1. Budget:

Cllr. Warne had met with Cllr. Swann to go over the budget prior to the meeting. There is £16,000 remaining in the budget for this year and a further £7,000 still in reserves, Cllr. Warne proposed to set the 2019/20 budget at £10,000, seconded by Cllr. Cook and unanimously agreed.

2. TWBC/KCC Liaison:

Cllr. Warne gave a brief outline on the background of the site allocation procedure for those who may not be aware. She went on to say that in the formation of TWBC new Local Plan they put out a call for sites which enabled landowners to put forward any sites they wished to be considered for future development. Although TWBC preference would be that they would undertake the site allocations, due to no MoU being forthcoming Cllr. Warne put forward the option of the NDP undertaking the site allocations themselves and advised what the process would entail. She displayed a map of the sites to be considered.

After a full discussion Cllr. Warne proposed that the Steering Group seek authorisation from the Parish Council to undertake site allocations for the Neighbourhood Plan, seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed. Cllr. Warne agreed to put together a short paper giving the pros and cons of the Steering Group undertaking the site allocations so that the Parish Council can make an informed decision. Discussion then took place on the timescale of events. Regulation 14 consultations would need to take place in early Summer and the referendum in the Spring of 2020. Regulation 14 is when the draft plan will need to be delivered to every household in the Parish and the distribution is a key milestone in the formal process (known as Regulation 14) of delivering a Neighbourhood Plan.

Kim Fletcher reported that he would be attending the KALC meeting of Parish Chairman on 27 November 2018 and he would raise key points at that meeting regarding Neighbourhood Plan issues.

Cllr. Warne reported that the Highways meeting with Vicky Hubert and Steve Baughen had not yet been rescheduled, but she was hoping this would take place in the new year.

3. Housing Needs Survey:

Cllr. Warne reported that the Clerk had not been able to get a response from AECOM regarding the Housing Needs Survey. Further contact would be made seeking the completed report.

4. Policy Development:

Landscape – The working group had met and made progress with the policy which had been tightened and is more Parish specific with assistance from David Scully the Landscape Officer for TWBC. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11th December 2019.

Community & Culture – As the Parish Council is moving ahead with the Community Centre Project the NDP Steering Group would like more information about what this might look like. Cllr. Fletcher would keep NDP Steering Group informed.

Heritage: This policy needs to be re-visited and a workshop will be scheduled in the near future.

Cranbrook Town Centre: Cllr. Warne commented that various policies may be joined together to form this policy. Perhaps this could include infrastructure, business, public space, community square, pedestrianisation. Anyone interested in being part of this group please let Cllr. Warne know then a workshop can be set up. Matthew Warne indicated that perhaps broadband and streetlighting could also be included.

5. Public Engagement:

Parish Cake: Cllr. Warne had written a very short piece giving an update in the issue due out imminently. However, she would like to make use of the next issue due to be published at beginning of March 2019 to publicise sites put forward by landowners so that as much publicity as possible can be given to let local residents know about sites in their locality.

Colliers Green: An Engagement Evening would be taking place at Colliers Green Church of England Primary School on Thursday 6th December 2018, leaflets had been circulated to publicise this event. Richard Eastham from FERIA Urbanism would also be in attendance to help with the presentation and to answer any questions. The following agreed to attend: Cllrs. Smith, Kemp, Fletcher, Lee Hatcher and Nem Goodman

Hartley: Cllr. Warne had also arranged for an Engagement Evening to be held at Hartley Coffee House on Wednesday 16th January 2019 as many sites had been put forward in this area and it was important to inform local residents of potential development sites. The following agreed to attend: Cllrs Fletcher, Kemp, Nem Goodman, June Bell, Annie Hopper, Lee Hatcher and Matthew Warne. It was agreed to ask for help from local residents to carry out a leaflet drop. Whilst on the subject of promotion Cllr. Warne asked that a portable projector screen is purchased to help with any exhibitions/events. Cllr. Veitch offered to use some of her Chairman's allowance up to £150.00 to help with the purchase which was gratefully accepted.

6. Stakeholder Engagement:

Goudhurst Neighbourhood Regulation 14 Draft Plan – Cllr. Warne informed all present that this was available to view on line.

Site 25 – Agent for this site had made contact asking for a timescale which Cllr. Warne was not able to confirm.

Dandora Homes – No planning application had been made.

Site adjacent to St. Georges Institute Sissinghurst – Cllr. Smith gave an update regarding this site although no application had been submitted as yet.

Common Road Site – It was reported that the applicant had taken this application to appeal.

7. Items for Information:

Cllr. Smith reported that he had received concerns from the Colliers Green Residents Group that perceived the CVLT members on the NDP Steering Group had a conflict of interest when considering the site allocations. Cllr. Veitch advised the NDP Steering Group that as a Committee they had to abide by the same Code of Conduct as the Parish Council and declare any personal, significant, or pecuniary interest. Legal advice had been sought which she would summarise and pass on to Cllr. Warne to disseminate.

Cllr Warne thanked Cllr. Smith for answering many of the emails on her behalf when she was not available.

The next meeting was scheduled to take place on 28th January 2019.

Cllr. Warne asked if there were any questions from members of the public present. None were forthcoming, although a member of the Colliers Green Residents Association expressed his thanks for the Engagement Evening which had been arranged. Cllr. Warne thanked those who had expressed an interest in joining the Steering Group but explained that there were no vacancies at present. She would welcome their input in the future should any suitable work be identified. She assured them that their views would be taken into consideration when deciding site allocations.