



WEST HOATHLY PARISH COUNCIL

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

Document Reference 2410

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of West Hoathly Parish Council held on Tuesday 4th June 2024 at 8:30pm in West Hoathly Village Hall

Members

Ken Allfree

Will Buckley

Martin Robinson (Vice
Chairman)

Bob Darvill

Peter Browne

Paul Brown

Claire Hilton*

Douglas Denham St Pinnock (Chairman)

Amy Marshall*

Manfred Lindfield

Sinead Young

* denotes absence

Also present:

Leanne Andrews (clerk)

District Cllr Lorraine Carvalho

There were 29 members of the public present

Paul Brown outlined how he was very disappointed in the decision made at the District Planning Committee meeting on the 21st March to grant planning permission to application DM/23/0827. Following the decision, Paul Brown decided to seek legal advice as a District Councillor. This advice has been shared with West Hoathly Parish Council and Paul Brown intends to progress one of the issues as a personal challenge. Paul Brown explained that following this personal challenge, this piece of work will then be closed.

The Parish Council Chairman thanked District Cllr Paul Brown & District Cllr Lorraine Carvalho for all their efforts.

District Cllr Lorraine Carvalho also outlined her disappointment at the decision made. Cllr Carvalho explained how due to work commitments she was unable to attend the District Planning committee meeting, but she did submit a briefing note outlining her objections to all committee members prior to the meeting. This note was also circulated to members of the public as and when requested.

32)To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Amy Marshall, Cllr Claire Hilton, RFO Anita Emery and County Cllr Garry Wall.

33)To receive declarations of interest from Parish Councillors in respect of any matter on the agenda

There were none

34)To receive an update following meeting with Mims Davies MP

The Parish Council Chairman provided the following update.

The Parish Council Clerk, Cllr Paul Brown, District Cllr Lorraine Carvalho and the Parish Council Chairman Douglas Denham St Pinnock held a Teams call with our MP, Mims Davies, on 3rd May, the purpose of which was to discuss the request that she ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to 'call in the application'. Mims Davis wrote to the Secretary of State, and she copied Cllr Douglas Denham St Pinnock in to her letter of 16th May.

Late on 23rd May Cllr Douglas Denham St Pinnock received correspondence from Lorraine Carvalho, itself from Mid Sussex District Council. The correspondence included an e-mail from the office of the Secretary of State to Mid Sussex issuing a 'holding directive' dated 20th May. Mid Sussex responded to the office of the Secretary of State on 22nd May confirming "no decision will be issued until such time as we have heard from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities as to whether they are going to 'call in the application' for decision by the Secretary of State."

Although the planning application was approved by Mid Sussex District Planning Committee on 21st March by 10 votes to two. The Assistant Director for Planning and Sustainable Economy may refuse the application if satisfactory planning obligations listed in Committee Report para 3.2 Recommendation B have not been completed by 21st June, but Mid Sussex's Assistant Director cannot refuse the application on those grounds under the 'holding directive'. We therefore await the decision of a new Secretary of State from 5th July onwards

35)To agree to spend up to £10,000 in connection with legal challenges to the MSDC approval of planning application DM/23/0827

It was noted that members of the Parish Council have seen the legal advice that District Councillor Paul Brown has obtained. This mostly relates to drainage issues and the SANG.

It was noted that depending on how things develop it may be in the Parish Council's interests to pursue the issues highlighted in Paul's legal advice, or to obtain other legal advice and in any case to be prepared for all outcomes.

Financial information, regarding affordability, has been provided by the RFO and was circulated to all members.

The Clerk explained that the Council should agree to suspend Financial Regulations to authorise the expenditure, however, as this is specialist services the regulation to obtain 3 quotations does not apply, as per regulation 11.1.

Following discussion, it was **unanimously agreed** to suspend the Financial Regulations and spend up to £10,000 of general reserves in connection with legal challenges to the MSDC approval of planning application DM/23/0827.

36)To note items of interest or items for inclusion at next meeting of the Parish Council

There were none

Date of next meeting 24th June 2024

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:50

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Chairman-----

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