



Extraordinary General Meeting

MINUTES 4th November 2019

1. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

A resident asked does the proposed 681 dwellings include recently completed houses – No, these are additional dwellings but does include recently approved planning applications Brook House and Land East of Heartenoak (total 53)

A resident raised the point that TWBC are using the wrong calculation for the borough as a whole - 2014 data rather than 2016 data. This would reduce the overall figure and thus the figure in Hawkhurst. - Clerk to chase up

A resident raised the point that the consultation event in Hawkhurst was very poor - a weekday, early evening is the wrong time if you wanted to engage with people and the information was poor. It felt like a tick box consultation event.

Cllr Thomson stated that the response by Stephen Baughen Head of Planning at TWBC to the Parish Councils letter failed to answer the questions and avoided the issues. – Yes, the Parish Council has replied.

Cllr Palmer – raised concerns about the response and supported Cllr Thomson's views.

Cllr Holden – was concerned about the impact of proposed development on traffic and quality of life.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Jones - ill

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS: *To receive notice of personal interests, whether of a prejudicial nature or otherwise, in respect of items on this agenda, in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.*

Cllr Weeden will not vote on any Housing issues.

4. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 TWBC Local Plan 2033 consultation – Parish Council feedback
Cllr Escombe explained that a draft response had been circulated and asked for views;

General points

Cllr Green welcomed the first draft and the opportunity to comment.

Cllr Taylor-Smith felt very strongly that the removal of rural from Hawkhurst definition was a fundamental error as it means we are considered urban. This is madness for a village in the AONB.

Cllr Taylor-Smith stated that TWBC had the opportunity to reduce the overall borough housing figure and have not done so, they have increased it. Again, fundamentally wrong for the whole borough.

Cllr Hunt felt the lack of respect to the Hawkhurst NDP, which TWBC have adopted so it is their NDP for Hawkhurst. He felt the draft comments in the response on the NDP should be simplified.

Policy STR/HA1

Cllr Green felt that the Hawkhurst NDP should be the starting point for everything.

Cllr Escombe agreed to get clarification on should we be specific regarding sites allocated in draft Local Plan – some we have opposed already and some already have planning permission.

Cllr Appelbe felt we should highlight why we did not allocate sites in the original NDP – as we had already exceeded our housing allocation at the time.

Cllr Whittle stated that we have allocated sites in the subsequent NDP versions but TWBC has not recognised them.

2. Additional housing

Cllr Taylor-Smith was very concerned about the approach to windfall. Everywhere else he has been an allowance would be included in the allocation for a Parish.

Cllr Escombe highlighted that there is no limit on the size of a windfall site, which again is concerning.

3 Relief road

Cllr Green stated we have already objected to the planning application relating to this policy in the draft Local Plan. But let us be clear it is just an additional road to facilitate extra housing, it will not bring any relief, it will add traffic, congestion and air pollution to Hawkhurst.

Cllr Taylor-Smith emphasised that it was a substandard road, not as wide as Highgate Hill.

Cllr Lusty was concerned that the belief that the relief road would solve the problems was wide of the mark – it will increase problems not solve them.

Cllr Taylor-Smith stated that the traffic data was taken during the “Beast from the East” and in no way reflects normal traffic movements. It is a complete nonsense. If you want to solve the traffic problem in Hawkhurst redirect the “north / south HGV’s” down the A21.

Cllr Whittle raised the point that the “Flimwell junction” is also not up to scratch and Highways England have opposed the proposed improvements in the current planning application.

The “relief road” is not identified in the KCC Growth and Infrastructure Plan – it is only a road to facilitate extra houses and another 2,000 cars.

Cllr Appelbe stated it does not take account of the accumulative effect of housing growth in the wider area -900 dwellings at Cranbrook etc.

Cllr Pyne felt that the “cutting off” of the north section of the village was criminal, whether it is access to shops and doctors or a bus route it is just plain wrong

4. **Gills Green employment** – fully support comments

5. **Housing at Gills Green** – support comments

6. **Impact on Flimwell junction**

Cllr Whittle felt Flimwell should be a Highways England regional priority rather than a half-hearted upgrade, subsidised by a community in a different county.

Cllr Green felt that an additional housing should consider the impact of Highgate Hill Crossroads, as well as Flimwell.

7. **Landscape**

Cllr Whittle felt TWBC had some fine words but their actions and delivery do not match them regarding landscape, green spaces and stopping incremental increases.

8. **AONB**

Cllr Lusty felt that TWBC had almost ignored the AONB in and around Hawkhurst, it was a disgraceful attitude and approach.

9. **Public car parks** – support comments

10. **Public rights of way** – support comments

11. **Open space, recreation and allotments**

Cllr Green - support comments but TWBC proposed to build on the biggest piece of open space and recreational facility (Hawkhurst Golf Club) in the village and then try and protect the rest of them?

12. **Shopping** – support comments

13. **Shops** – support comments

Mitigation

a) **Primary school** – safeguarded school site, wrong place in site allocation

b) **Health** – what about fall-back position if this falls through?

c) **Cultural** – link to community centre

d) **Highways** – disagree

e) **Public parking** – support comments

f) **Hop pickers line** – fine but a distraction “a complete waste of time and money”

g) **Cycle paths** – fine but will need to purchase land

h) **Community centre** – support

i) **Feasibility study into alternative modes of transport** – fine but how about delivery

j) **Road classification** – This needs to be a priority, not just a feasibility study but delivery due to air quality problems

k) **Provision of open space, allotments etc.** – support comments but further emphasises why TWBC should not be proposing to build on Hawkhurst Golf Course

Further sections of plan

Cllr Escombe emphasised that the section on the NDP policy – the comments needed refining, that comments on the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Local Green Spaces would be added and sustainability section commented upon

Cllr Cory requested that an executive summary / press release is circulated to help others comment

Cllr Cory suggested offering support to residents to submit a response by Friday 15th November 2019.

It was agreed that

- Cllr Escombe would finalise response
- A media release / executive summary would be circulated (done 5th November 2019)

- Offers to the public to submit response – offered from 5th November 2019

4.2 Update on planning developments in Hawkhurst

Cllr Escombe updated the meeting on the following

- The Parish have written to TWBC questioning the White House planning application on planning matters – awaiting a response
- The Parish have submitted a FOI to KCC for information regarding traffic data / surveys in Hawkhurst – closing date latter this week
- The Parish have submitted a FOI to TWBC for information regarding traffic data / surveys in Hawkhurst – closing date latter this week
- Following the meeting with Greg Clark and subsequent meeting between Greg Clark and TWBC, the Head of Planning at TWBC has requested a meeting with Parish Councillors

14. CLOSURE: 9:25pm

Signed Chairman of the Council.....