**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

**MINUTES** of brief extra meeting held on Thursday December 15, 2016 at 7.30 in the Georgian Room at the Youth Centre before the Parish Council meeting.

**Present** : Stephen Hardy, Lesley Smith, Graham Browne, Peter Davies, Judith Rogers, Alexander Church, Karen Ripley, Martin Bates, Ruth Hardy, Nick Greenfield, Sean O'Hara.

In attendance: Angie Goodwin.

**1. Apologies:** Sue Prochak

**2. Declarations of Interest**: None.

**3. Minutes of previous meetings**: Deferred until next full Steering Group meeting.

**4. Approval of draft Reg. 15 Plan and associated documents to be submitted to Parish Council**:

Stephen talked the meeting through the amendments discussed and agreed at the previous meeting on Tuesday December 13. NB The comments we had received from all the statutory consultees were supportive and positive.

p.13 Capacity of Schools: this reflects the views of ESCC.

p.15 1.4.12: We needed to emphasise that we are entirely within the High Weald AONB.

p.24 Historic England's suggestion re the requirement to retain historic shop fronts (with particular reference to OneStop).

p.32 High Weald AONB: suggestions to strengthen our position.

p.34 The Environment Agency had suggested referring to watercourses and other ecological networks.

p.35 EN9: countering points raised by Strutt & Parker who act for one of the owners of the Heathfield Gardens site, in which they were arguing that little could be done to protect the trees on the site. It had been amended to read “unless the benefits outweigh the harm to the trees ..”.

HO1: The last sentence has been amended in the light of the Newick High Court decision, to use support from the Rother policies about no development in the countryside. On Donna's advice it now reads … “..and therefore will only be permitted provided it complies with the provision of other relevant policies ..”

HO3: We have previously had the debate about how specific to be about numbers. In view of this we have added “.. as shown on the proposals map .. subject to the criteria elsewhere .. “ etc.

HO6: Strutt & Parker had requested alternative wording, but we had stuck with “affordable housing” as that is the accepted term.

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P. 62 Martin pointed out that he had supplied an updated version, but this had not been included. It does not change the substance of the list but it has extra information and makes it clearer. Stephen pointed out that we will have the opportunity to change this as a footnote after the next consultation process.

Heritage Assets: Stephen has drafted a paragraph about statutory listed buildings. Martin will send additions, which can go in as a separate document.

Martin had produced an extra table which justifies our selection of locally listed buildings. Karen reminded us that extra information will be on the website, but not included in the document.

Lesley asked about the phrasing of the reference to older people's housing (“and sheltered accommodation” had been included).

Stephen then asked the Steering Group to agree to taking the document forward to the Parish Council meeting. This was agreed. Stephen particularly thanked Karen for the enormous amount of work, as without her we simply would not have got to this stage on time.

Stephen was to meet Donna on Friday, December 16 to gather all the documents together and ready to go to the next stage. He has discussed with Malcolm Johnson when they will hold the referendum, but it seems likely that it will be held at the same time as the local elections in May. A lot will depend on the Inspector's comments.

The Steering Group meeting was then followed by the full Parish Council meeting.

**5. Date of next meeting**: Initially Tuesday January 10, but this has now been rearranged for Tuesday February 14, 2017 at 7.30 in the Youth Centre.

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