

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

### **Minutes of meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 2.00pm at The Library, Ash Road, Hartley**

#### **1. PRESENT**

Chris Alford (Chairman) Gary Andrews, David Conroy, Stephanie Cassidy, Gerald Cramp, Tracy Longley, Glenn Back and Ian Ross (Vice Chairman)

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Stephen Goss, Jim Colwell and Mark Heeley

#### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Gerald advised that his daughter, Jane Armstrong, has been appointed as a Planning Enforcement Manager at SDC.

#### **4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting be approved and adopted.

#### **5. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT PLAN BY PLANNING CONSULTANTS**

The first meeting with Derek Stebbing took place on 16 January and a further meeting is due at 7pm on 27<sup>th</sup> February. Gary will forward the invitation to attend to all Group members. Derek had agreed to review all policies and produce a timeline to completion of the Plan by 31 January. To date these have not been received.

Gary has circulated the draft Plan with latest amendments shown in red and agreed to send this draft to Derek and ask for his comments prior to the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **6. PROGRESS ON OUTSTANDING WORKS**

##### **Updating the Plan**

All members were asked to review the draft Plan circulated by Gary and provide him with any comments asap. Gerald will meet with Gary to provide his amendments.

Gerald advised that the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan (which is at referendum stage) includes a policy relating to Critical Road Junctions. In view of the current high volume of traffic on Ash Road and the further traffic which is likely to be experienced if the New Ash Green solar farm development is approved, it was felt that the Hartley Plan should include a similar policy stating that developments should not proceed if they affect critical roads in Hartley, ie Ash Road.

**Resolved** that Gerald will draft a policy on critic road junctions which will include an item describing the roads in and out of Hartley and Chris will ask for advice from Derek if such a policy should be included. Chris will ask the Parish Council to arrange for a traffic count to be undertaken.

##### **Local Green Spaces.**

The list of sites was reviewed. Government guidance indicates that cemeteries and graveyards should be included and it was agreed the 3 cemeteries in Hartley will be added to the list. Although Northfields is a large tract of land, it was agreed that this should be retained on the list and the Parish Council supported this at their last meeting.

**Resolved** that Chris will contact SDC for advice on any local Green Spaces allocated for Hartley in their Local Plan. Tracy will produce a spreadsheet with all information needed

per site and will circulate to the Group for completion. Stephen Goss has produced a paper with descriptions of some sites which can be included. A plan will need to be produced showing all sites.

### **Heritage Assets**

Gerald has produced four papers which he will circulate to the Group. There are two unlisted sites and two conservation areas which may need to be included in the Plan. Chris to seek advice from Derek on how this can be dealt with in the Plan.

### **Community Assets**

A discussion took place on whether shops should be included as community assets. Chris to take advice from Derek. It was agreed that the Social Club and Country Club should be included.

### **Consultation Statement**

Stephanie agreed to review the paper produced by Chris.

## **7. MEETING WITH SDC PLANNING OFFICERS**

It was agreed that we should contact SDC for assistance with maps, etc. It was suggested that a meeting with SDC should take place in March/April to discuss the draft Plan once further work has been undertaken on the policies.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) David advised that the Parish Council is holding a sum of £20,000 in reserves for works on the Plan. It was agreed by the Group that this sum needs to be retained for the present.
- b) SDC are consulting on a proposal for Farningham and Eynsford to produce a joint Neighbourhood Plan.
- c) The referendum for the Fawkham Neighbourhood Plan is taking place on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025. (Post meeting note – there was a turnout of nearly 35% with 84.7% voting in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan.)

## **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm in the Library, Ash Road, and Hartley

The meeting ended at 3.15pm.