



# EWHURST PARISH COUNCIL WITH ELLENS GREEN

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Minutes of the Extra-ordinary meeting of EWHURST PARISH COUNCIL WITH ELLENS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL held at 8.15 pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 at the Village Hall.

Attendees: Parish Councillors: Mike Turner (Chair); Rob Mathews; Julie Francis; Elaine Benson; Ian Davis; Val Dixon Henry arrived during item 45(2017).

Approximately 20 members of the public.

Jane Bromley, Clerk, Ewhurst Parish Council.

42 (2017) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Parish Councillors: Richard Cleaves; Tim Bloomfield; Tom Fawcett. Val Dixon Henry had explained she would be arriving late to the meeting due to a previous commitment.

43 (2017) DECLARATION OF INTEREST. None declared

44 (2017) CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT.

The Chairman read out a statement setting out the role of the Parish Council in producing a Neighbourhood Plan and the responsibility to the community it serves. He outlined the purpose of the Meeting which included looking at the structure of the Steering Group to ensure 'it is fit for purpose'. He also addressed the procedure for public participation.

45 (2017) ADJOURNMENT: - Various views were discussed in the adjournment of the meeting. The Parish Council received a presentation from the Chairman on the Steering Group regarding the current structure of the Steering Group.

46 (2017) THE PARISH COUNCIL TO RECONSIDER THE STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF THE STEERING GROUP FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND TO REVISIT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THAT BODY.

Parish Councillors were invited to express their views

Cllr Valerie Dixon Henry spoke and expressed that the Neighbourhood Plan was important to all in the Parish. She felt that a lot of good work had gone into it. The personnel though had changed enormously over the course of the Plan. She felt the Terms of Reference were an ongoing matter, that the Parish Council are the drivers of the Neighbourhood Plan and a key component of it. We need to pick up from where we are now and make this work.

Cllr Ian Davis spoke concerning the Backward Point appeal hearing. Primarily the argument was the proposal wasn't welcome as it pre-empted the Neighbourhood Plan. The Inspector was very professional and asked as to the status of the Neighbourhood Plan. He felt it was unfortunate that he had been unable to impart the details of the consultation in January as the Consultation Process had not been agreed formally by the Parish Council or Steering Group, it didn't do the community any favours and the Neighbourhood Plan was given little weight. He felt there was a strong evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan, a committed Chair, and high level of community support. It is possible to achieve an adopted Plan by the end of the year. The opportunity could be thrown away. The situation is still retrievable but will require compromise. A small minority want the January consultation declared invalid. I accept the process needs to be robust. I endorse Henning von Spreckelsen's Chairmanship of the Steering Group.

Cllr Elaine Benson was surprised how such minor issues has escalated and was in favour of the Consultation document's formal approval by the Parish Council.

Cllr Rob Matthews was in agreement with the Consultation document.

Cllr Julie Francis was in agreement that the Consultation document should be formally agreed.

Cllr Mike Turner wanted Henning von Spreckelsen to work more closely with RC and MT if the Parish Council agreed with his proposals although he did not feel sole charge of the Steering Group was appropriate.

- 47 (2017) MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING of the Parish Council, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017  
The Parish Councillors would consider the foregoing discussion and other material information with a view to considering a formal Resolution at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

The meeting closed at 10pm.