

NEWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee of Newick Parish Council held at Newick Community Centre, The Green, Newick on Tuesday 3rd April 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors: C. Armitage, B. Horsfall, J. Smerdon, M. Thew, C. Wickens and K. Wrench

Non Councillor: Mr J Lucas (Chair),

In attendance: Mrs S. Berry (Clerk)
Seven members of the public

An audio recording was made of the meeting.

- 1. Apologies for Absence.** No apologies had been received.
- 2. Disclosure by Members of personal interest in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.** Cllr. Smerdon disclosed an interest in connection with agenda item 5 in her role as Chairman of Newick Tennis Club (the club had previously received a donation from Thakeham).
- 3. Questions or Statements by Members of the Public** – Mr Turk spoke in connection with agenda item 5. He referred to paragraph 189 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), March 2012, which encourages planning applicants to engage with the local community before submitting their applications. He commented that the leaflet recently circulated by Thakeham was a poor example of engagement with the local community in that it attempted to steer attention away from the fundamental point that the proposal involved a larger site and more houses than envisaged in Newick's Neighbourhood Plan. He stated that, if Thakeham asked to give a presentation on their proposals to the Parish Council, he hoped that the Council would agree to listen to them, thereby playing its part in following government guidance on community engagement. Finally, he commented that if approval were to be given for 50 new homes at the Mitchelswood Farm site, 20 at the land to the rear of 45 Allington Road and 69 on the former Woods Fruit Farm site, this would result in 200 additional homes in Newick rather than the 100 envisaged in the Neighbourhood Plan, thereby leading to uncontrolled expansion of the village.

Mr Cumberlege spoke in connection with the leaflet he had produced regarding the Thakeham public consultation and which had been delivered to local households at the same time as the Parish Council's newsletter. He offered to pay any costs incurred in the delivery of the leaflet.

- 4. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** – A draft response to the NPPF Consultation Proposals (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government – March 2018) had been prepared by committee members and circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that no response had been made to questions 11, 38, 39, 41, 42 and 43 and that the footnote which explained the reason for this should be improved to make it clear to other members of the Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council should be asked to approve this response to be made as part of the government consultation. The Clerk was asked to ensure that Councillors not involved with the Neighbourhood Plan Committee were given copies of the NPPF Consultation document in addition to the proposed response document. **Action Clerk**
It was agreed that the committee should also send copies of the draft proposed response document to Lewes District Council and to District Councillor Jim Sheppard with a request that LDC should support the points made by Newick PC in its own response to the consultation. It was noted that, although not an agenda item in its own right, this matter may be raised at the forthcoming Annual Parish Meeting, and would be referred to in the Chairman's Report.

5. **Neighbourhood Plan Policy H04** – It was noted that Thakeham Homes had circulated a consultation leaflet regarding their development proposals for the former Woods Fruit Farm site to a limited number of households within close proximity to the site and that this had been copied to the Parish Council. Thakeham had confirmed that it did not presently have any plans for further consultation events. Cllr. Thew reported that Mr Boughton, Managing Director of Thakeham Homes, had contacted her recently to request a meeting. Cllr. Thew had asked that the request should be directed to the Parish Council via the Clerk, but this had not happened.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent from the Parish Council to Thakeham in which the following points would be made:-

- Thakeham's request for a meeting was directed to an individual member of the council and not the Clerk,
- The proposed development plans did not comply with policy H04 of Newick's Neighbourhood Plan as the site was significantly larger and contained thirty more houses than had been agreed in the Neighbourhood Plan,
- The Council was disappointed to note that the proposals were not in line with the agreed Neighbourhood Plan and, therefore, felt duty bound to voice its concern.

It was agreed that the draft letter should be circulated to all members of the Parish Council for approval and that, once approved, a copy should be sent to Lewes District Council. **Action Clerk & Mr Lucas**

It was agreed to propose that the Parish Council should publish a copy of the letter on the Parish website.

6. **Date of next meeting** – It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 1st May 2018. The Clerk advised that she would be on annual leave and would not be available to take the minutes. It was agreed that Cllr. Thew would take notes at this meeting
7. **Items for the next agenda** – It was agreed that the standard items (including policy H05) should appear on the agenda

The meeting closed at 7.35 p.m.

Signed: Dated: