



# Slinfold Parish Council

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## **Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

### **1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence**

To accept apologies for absence.

**In attendance:** Councillors Pyle, Roberts (Chair), Sherwin-Smith, Skeates, Slipper, Nigel Smith, Paula Smith and Walker.

**Apologies:** There were none.

**Also in attendance:** Mike Simpson (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

### **2. To Receive Declarations of Interest, Notification of Changes to Members' Interests and consider any requests for a dispensation.**

There were none.

### **3. Public Session (Members of the Public may speak for up to five minutes at the discretion of the Chair)**

No members of the public wished to speak.

### **4. Minutes from the previous meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as a true and accurate record. Councillors Roberts and Slipper abstained as they were not present.

### **5. Neighbourhood Plan**

#### **(a) To receive an update on the current situation**

The Slinfold Neighbourhood Plan was now 5 years old and was technically out of date even though it says it should last until 2031. Consequently, the parish would be more exposed to development, so the Plan needed to be back in date. It did not need to be rewritten but was an opportunity to look at policies and see what was missed. Councillor Skeates was the Chair of the previous Steering Group and wanted to encourage more members of the public to engage with the revision. The original Plan was based on 2011 Census data but 2021 was now available which showed an 11% growth in population with more elderly residents. Since the first Plan was made there had been the following development: 14 houses at Cobblers, 12 at Spring Lane and 24 at Crosby Farm. This meant Slinfold had delivered 50 of its 77 housing allocation which was about where it should be at the current time.

#### **(b) To discuss conformity with wider planning issues including the National Planning Policy Framework, HDC Local Plan and Water Neutrality**

A lot had changed since the last Local Plan including an increase in housing allocations. The number of dwellings per annum had increased from 800 to 948 per annum which was an 18% increase. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) had also changed with a focus more on the protection of character and landscape. Water Neutrality had held up a lot of development.

#### **(c) To review Policy 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan**

Preventing coalescence between neighbouring parishes was a policy in the Regulation 19 Draft Local Plan so it was important to repeat it in the Neighbourhood Plan.

**(d) To review the aims, objectives and policies**

These would be discussed in detail at the Working Group.

**(e) To discuss the process for deciding on sites**

The HDC Draft Local Plan did not include a housing allocation for Slinfold so this meant the new Neighbourhood Plan could focus more on what the parish needed and not development. This could include the future of Slinfold Stores and the scout hut as well as focusing more on green spaces, footpaths and watercourses. The Parish already had land at the East of Hayes Lane (33) and Lower Broadbridge Farm (133) as potential further development.

**(f) To discuss the timeframe for a review of the Neighbourhood Plan**

Horsham District Council had experienced problems with its Local Plan and were behind schedule. It had recently finished the Regulation 19 consultation which meant it would probably be adopted in summer 2025. The Neighbourhood Plan could follow thereafter.

**(g) To discuss a working group and volunteers**

A Working Group would be formed at the Council meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May which residents could join.

**(h) To discuss funding options for a review**

HDC provided funding for the first Neighbourhood Plan but they had nothing available currently. Locality would have some funding soon.

**(i) To discuss any other issues relating to the Neighbourhood Plan**

It was emphasised that consultation with the public was one of the most important parts of the process.

**6. Date of next meeting**

30<sup>th</sup> May 2024