

Slinfold Neighbourhood Plan II Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Date: 28th January 2025 Meeting no.6

Present: Ed Skeates (Chair), Liz Cox, Keith Feltham, Martyn Haines, Tony Hall, Stuart Webb, Paula Smith

Apologies: Angela Scott, Adrian Roberts, Nigel Smith, Vince Pyle

1. Previous minutes and Actions from 3rd December 2024 reviewed.

Earlier that afternoon HDC had hosted a Neighbourhood Plan webinar for parishes to explain the latest position in light of the Inspectors decision to pause the HDC Local Plan. ES and PS attended the meeting and fed back – it was clear that HDC had not expected this to happen and HDC officers seemed unaware of the reasons why. ES explained his understanding that the Inspector had felt HDC had hidden behind Water Neutrality as a reason to suppress their numbers when the adequate provision of water was the responsibility of the regulator and Southern Water. HDC had therefore not prepared their Plan ‘positively’.

2. Response from HDC to SNPWG letter

The group discussed the implications of the HDC response. Fundamental disagreement with the position on the 133 units at Lower Broadbridge Farm needed to be resolved before much meaningful progress could be made on housing numbers. In a post meeting discussion, ES raised with HDC that they had allocated this site in their Regulation 19 Plan January 2024 and it transpired that HDC may have overlooked this and would review their response to the letter. ES was subsequently asked by SPC to prepare a briefing note for discussion at Council. **Action ES**

3. Design Statement

TH reported that work on the Design Statement had stalled since the end of November. Illness, holidays, and other activities with greater priorities had contributed. He would attempt to convene a meeting during February and report back at the next meeting of this group. He re-iterated that work which had been undertaken so far, and any planned work, was largely editing of the 2006 Statement. Stuart Webb had however agreed to significantly ‘rework’ the section on Landscape and Biodiversity. TH recommended that future work on the Statement should be in the form of a continuous revision process, and that whenever a version needed to be ‘recognised’ it could be ‘made’ at the appropriate time.

ES was concerned that this was not the right approach. He believed that the 2006 Statement omitted important content, and he wanted to establish what was missing. MH and SW supported the need to establish what content was missing.

The response from HDC to our letter offered support with discussion with relevant officers and emphasised the need for stakeholder engagement.

4. WSCC – Response from WSCC outstanding.

5. Infrastructure

A copy of the 2019 Parish Infrastructure 'wish list' is going to be discussed by the Parish Council and will be fed back to SNPWG.

6. Outstanding Actions

Funding – Seek funding from Locate website carried forward. **Action NS**

Scout Hut – NS to consider arranging a meeting with the scout group to establish their readiness to engage and implement anything that may come out of the SNPWG. Preparing a briefing note scoping the workstreams on this was discussed as being helpful. **Action NS**

ES circulated NP Administrator Job Description. Funding to be requested from Parish Council Finance Committee. **Action NS**

Next meeting:

7.00pm 25th February 2025 Parish Room – CONFIRMED

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