ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**The Neighbourhood Planning Committee was held on Monday 21st March 2022 at 18:00, held in the Committee Room within the AWMH.**

**Present:**

Cllr Jen Watkins, Alfriston Parish Council

Cllr Sylvia Daw, Alfriston Parish Council

Cllr David Bell, Alfriston Parish Council

Cllr Stephen Rabagliati, Alfriston Parish Council

Ms Susan Owen, Resident of Alfriston

Mr James Black, Resident of Alfriston

Mr Nick Guyatt, Resident of Alfriston

Mr Howard Thomas, Resident of Alfriston

Mrs Victoria Rutt, Clerk of Alfriston Parish Council

No members of the public were present.

**Apologies**

Cllr Diana Monteath-Wilson.

**1.Welcome**

Cllr Jen Watkins welcomed everyone to the meeting. All members of the committee introduced themselves.

**2. Appoint Chair**

Mr James Black would like to appoint Mr Nick Guyatt as the Chairman. Cllr Jen Watkins would like to appoint Cllr Sylvia Daw as Chairman. There was a vote, and it was agreed as Mr Nick Guyatt to stand as Chairman of this committee.

Mr Guyatt gave a short introduction and explained the reason for a NDP is to encourage development into the village. It is incredibly important that the village is involved from day one. It needs to be agreed how it is going to work to obtain input from everyone through the process. Mr Guyatt asked if someone technology minded could create a Facebook page for the NDP as a way to promote it. Cllr Rabagliati is going to look into this. **Action 1.**

The Clerk reminded everyone that this is one large committee. It is not Parish Councillors versus residents. The Parish Councillors who have requested to sit on this committee are doing so as a resident. The Parish Council have the final say with the plan but the committee will be undertaking the research and work, together.

Mr Thomas said that the terms of reference [TOR] is a good way to cover the stakeholder engagement plan. Mr Guyatt said we need a way to communicate with everyone as he does not feel that APC is listened to. The Clerk disagreed and said that APC can communicate widely with people via APC website, village website, email subscription, 2 noticeboard, Neighbourhood Watch and other key groups. If other ideas/groups can be identified that would be even better. It was agreed that communication is very important.

Mr Guyatt was concerned that meetings have to be open to the public as need to be careful when land allocation is discussed. Clerk and Cllr Watkins confirmed that all APC’s meetings are open to the public and minutes will be published widely.

Cllr Bell commented that earlier Mr Guyatt had said that a NDP is about encouraging housing. Cllr Bell is interested in addressing the developments taking place and to improve social housing to stop Alfriston from looking like a ghetto. Mr Guyatt confirmed you can look at the development that takes place as an appendix to the plan.

It was confirmed that two areas of land have already been identified by SDNPA [South Downs National Park Authority] as the old allotments behind North Street and at the top of Kings Ride.

**3. Declaration of interests**

* Mr Guyatt lives in the village.
* Mr Black lives in the village and owns other properties in the village.
* Councillor’s Watkins, Bell, Daw and Rabagliati have their interests registered on the APC website.
* Ms Owen lives in the village.
* Mr Thomas lives in the village.
* Cllr Rabagliati is a business owner in Alfriston.

**4. Discuss and agree the Terms of Reference**

Mr Guyatt went around the table and asked each member to say what they are hoping to get out of the NDP.

* *Cllr Bell*. He understood the NDP is for the purpose of allowing more building and he was not keen on further building at all, and definitely not large houses.
* *Cllr Watkins*. Would like a clearer vision for how the village will look in the next 5 years.
* *Cllr Daw*. Would like to sit down and develop the previous plan. Look at what has happened since the last one and what we can do to prevent any further changes. Ensure that the Church, School and Dark Skies remain in Alfriston.
* *Cllr Rabagliati*. He understands the remit of the NDP is not to influence the planning process, it is to direct and find the land sites. Would like to see constraints on the type of developments. Would like to see accommodation for younger people and to improve green credentials in the village.
* *Ms Owen*. Really supports the aspiration of the SDNPA, wants to protect this area from urbanization which is a real concern. To ensure that any extra housing is necessary and appropriate. Over arching preservation of the environment is key.
* *Mr Thomas*. Alfriston is an unique setting within the National Park, would like to see this preserved. Would like to see more facilities especially for young people. A hub for teenagers to meet, housing they can afford. Moving forward with green aspects in the village.
* *Mr Black.* This is a lovely village which is constrained with infrastructure. Population growth can’t be too big. Keep the green spaces around us. Covid has changed the village but it is still vibrant. Support young workers in the village. Village has opportunities. Need to help people to get on the ladder.

Mr Guyatt said he would work with two members on everyone’s visions and draw up a Terms of Reference [TOR] for the group. Ms Owen and Cllr Daw volunteered to work on this with Mr Guyatt. A date was arranged. It will be circulated to the committee for comments in around 3 weeks. **Action 2.**

**5. Next steps**

* The TOR and strategic view will be drafted and circulated in due course.
* Mr Guyatt would like all committee members to write down two or three people i.e. groups who they can liaise with and start discussions with about the NDP. Can look at that list at next meeting to see who is missing. **Action 3.**
* Try to find out what the current housing stock is. Owned/Rented etc. Breakdown of tax bands. Clerk will see if WDC can supply this data. **Action 4.**
* Clerk will recirculate the Housing Needs Survey. **Action 5.**
* Mr Guyatt has a vision to have an open day in the village where there will be a large map and residents can mark off areas that they would consider suitable for development.
* Need facilities for younger people. Waiting to see what happens with the playground fundraising project.
* Position of the Doctors surgery. It needs to be a bigger, purpose-built building if it is to survive at all.

**6. Public Questions**

No members of the public in attendance.