ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**The Neighbourhood Planning Committee was held on Monday 18th July 2022 at 19:00, held in the Committee Room within the AWMH.**

**Present:**

Mr Nick Guyatt [*Chair*]

Cllr Jen Watkins

Cllr Sylvia Daw

Cllr Stephen Rabagliati

Ms Susan Owen

Mr James Black

Cllr Diana Monteath-Wilson

Mr Howard Thomas

Mrs Victoria Rutt [*minutes*]

No members of the public were present.

**1.Welcome**

Mr Nick Guyatt welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

No apologies.

**3. Approve minutes from NDP meeting held on 21st March 2022**

The minutes were previously circulated and all approved at the meeting as a true and accurate record.

**4. Discuss and agree whether to proceed with the NDP**

Mr Guyatt updated the committee that when Alfriston Parish Council [APC] decided to proceed with a Neighbourhood Development Plan [NDP] it was due to existing houses being extended. However, the NDP is put in place to encourage neighborhoods to control their own planning and to find their own sites for development. Mr Guyatt attended the APC meeting in June where the NDP was discussed. APC felt it was the role of the sub-committee to decide whether the committee should continue. Mr Guyatt thinks it is the decision of APC to make. However, the committee were invited today to discuss and decide next steps.

Mr Guyatt asked each attendee in turn for their opinion, and they were as followed [*these comments are not verbatim*].

Cllr Rabagliati said that following discussions with Cllr Lunn [Wealden District Council] at the last APC meeting, he thinks it is wise to continue with the NDP as if we have a plan, areas identified are effectively the only areas in the village that can be developed.

Cllr Daw said that when she first raised this at APC, she wanted a plan for the village, not just for the buildings. She feels that the NDP is not the plan she wanted, and this is just about planning. She is disappointed it is not for the village.

Cllr Watkins asked to not give her opinion as she has not kept up to date with everything as she has been away and unwell.

Cllr Monteath-Wilson said she did not come to the first NDP meeting due to illness but understands that the NDP has no control over existing properties. She does understand the point raised by Cllr Rabagliati so feels that the committee should persevere as the NDP carries some weight with the planning process.

Mr Thomas said it is a shame that the call out for volunteers did not explain the reasons that APC wanted a NDP. He feels that the idea is to identify green space and the first line of protection. Amongst other things, it is a powerful document to have. It will help reinforce the two existing identified two sites. Further research will be needed.

Mr Black stated that he cares about the village and how it may develop in the future. He feels that the committee has a good Chairman to lead us through the SDNPA literature. In his mind, the NDP will mean that the village will have a good say on which plots may be developed.

Ms Owen stated that she volunteered for this committee as she is concerned about the village as does not want to see further over development. She seconds the view of most and would like to control development of which some can be detrimental.

Cllr Daw raised concerns that the committee is becoming Parish Councillor v Resident. There are discussions taking place in smaller groups and not including the whole committee. The Clerk confirmed that this group is a sub-committee of the Parish Council. APC as a whole will have the final say but all committee members should be included, and all meetings need to be held in public to ensure the rules re followed and transparency to all residents. Mr Guyatt felt that a mountain was being made out of a mole hill but agreed to draw a line and move on now that the rules have been made very clear.

Mr Guyatt reiterated that APC will have the final say on the NDP and then the plan will go to the whole village for a referendum.

Mr Guyatt explained that he has spoken to friends in the village about this plan who think it is a great idea and are very enthusiastic. It would be good to have control in the village over the planning process. Cllr Monteath-Wilson said it would be good if those people could attend PC meetings to give their comments/opinions.

**5. Next steps**

Mr Guyatt asked for a vote to see whether the NDP will continue. The vote was unanimous and will continue. APC will be informed of the decision at the next meeting.

It was agreed to get the TOR agreed by APC. Clerk will circulate to Councillors and ask for any comments by end of the week so the NDP committee can receive the comments on Monday. **Action 1.**

It was confirmed that the TOR can be signed off via email and ratified at the next meeting in September 2022.

It was agreed that the NDP committee will meet before each APC meeting, except August and December from 6:15 – 7:00.

The next meeting will be Monday 19th September 2022.

**6. Public Questions**

No members of the public in attendance.

**ACTIONS**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Action | Who | Status |
| 1 | Send draft TOR to Cllrs for comment | Clerk | Completed |