

Minutes of the Meeting of the Hurst Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Held at the Castle Inn on Wednesday 21st June 2023

Present John Edwards (JE) Chairman, Lou Robinson (LR), Brian Thomas (BT),
Wayne Smith (WS), Duncan Kendall (DK), Penny Curry (PC) Secretary

Apologies Gemma Moore (GM)

262 There were no prejudicial interests to declare.

263 The minutes of the 22nd November, 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

264 Matters Arising

258: Late proposed allocation in LPU 5HU053 ([Local Plan Update \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)) at Bill Hill (97.5 ha/241 acres) for *Other (Renewable Energy)*.

EJE: Action ongoing.

260: BT has delivered the traffic report.

265 Correspondence

A past resident of Hurst requested information on 10 March, 2023 on how the HNP was progressing and when it would be published? EJE replied 10 May, 2023 informing them that the HNP is on pause at present except for maintenance.

Since HNPWG meeting November, 2022, an exchange of correspondence has taken place between Ms D Pleace & Mr J McCarthy (DP/JM) and Chairman of HNPWG and WS: 24 March, 2023 an email was sent to Hurst Parish Council and forwarded to HNPWG regarding the health check on the HNPWG Terms of Reference and other matters. A further email was sent by DP/JM on the 8 April, 'Request to withdraw the HNPWG's RGS Consultation Report'. HNPWG Chairman responded on the 8th April requesting clarification; DP/JM responded on 8th April, 2023 and the Chairman of the HNPWG responded with a comprehensive explanation 2 May, 2023, regarding 1) Terms of Reference; 2) Community Consultation and 3) HNP Response to the proposed WBC LPU (submitted January 2022). DP/JM responded on 22 May asking the HNPWG to reassess their request.

After discussion the HNPWG have concluded that they have provided sufficient explanation to DP/JM and consider the matter now closed.

ACTION: JE to write to DP/JM to confirm the TOR had been resolved and the HNPWG were not intending to withdraw our submission to the WBC RGS consultation.

266 Update on LPU

JE has spoken to James McCabe (WBC RGS) (14 November, 2022) re request for the indicative housing number. JM responded on 9th December that WBC are at present trialing the methodology for indicative housing numbers in the Finchampstead NP and would report back. Nothing to date.

267 Update from Group

Ruscombe NP overview by JE

- Nicely presented report of 50 Pages with three appendices bringing the page count to 133.
- 11 policies proposed covering the Development Limit, Housing Design Code, Local Green Spaces through to Managing traffic and Car parking.
- Historic environment. A single conservation area around St James church (Grade I listed) and 11 Grade II structures.
- Almost all non-green belt land has been used for housing.
- Two brown-field sites from the WBC local plan are promoted for development although there is a debate about the density of housing on these sites.
- 14 candidates for Buildings of Traditional and Local Character (BTLC) are offered.
- Buratta's at the Royal Oak and St James church are identified as Community Assets.
- 10 small Local Green Spaces are identified.
- Specific housing Design Codes are proposed for nine separate areas within the parish.
- The Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure element report was outsourced to Sundew Ecology. 12 recommendations include hedgerow and ditch management, enhancing green corridors and managing green spaces for pollinators and other species.

JE concluded there appears to be no negative impact on or conflict with the Parish of Hurst.

Request to Pause the HNP Progress to Regulation 14:

As a direct result of a number of external factors, the Chairman wrote a paper reflecting upon the national and local political status which in turn has caused a great deal of confusion and lack of clarity; For example, the ongoing Levelling-Up Regeneration Bill (LURB), Reforms to the NPPF consultation, Environment Act and the Environmental Land Management Strategy, etc. are all in a state of flux. It has always been the intention of the HNPWG to track the evolving WBC Local Plan, which due to a change in political administration, is lacking progress.

The paper was presented to the HPC at their meeting 4th April, 2023 (9419) and it was resolved to pause the Neighbourhood Plan until such a time when there is clarification from the above, but would review the matter at the end of the year, although maintenance would continue where appropriate.

Terms of Reference (TOR):

Although a resident had raised the issue at the HPC April Meeting as to whether the HNPWG Terms of Reference needed a 5 year health check the HNPWG were already looking into this. It transpired there were two versions of the TOR: One approved by the HPC and one by the HNPWG. As the HNPWG is not a forum, a 5 year health check is not required, but because clarification has been sought, JE has rewritten and reviewed this document and it was submitted to the HPC for approval in at their 30th May, 2023 meeting (9447) and the approved version has now been published on the PC and HNP website.

Digital Vault: Agreed to opt for Sugar Sync.

Update Status Chart: Nothing to update.

Business Report: PC said that apart from a business name change there were no other amendments: She would check on new Forest Road sign listings.

ACTION: LR and PC to arrange a day to update report.

Design Guide: Nothing from GM to date.

Photos: DK has uploaded lots of images. Next stage is to nominate house/houses of local character and special interest.

ACTION: HNPWG

268 Tasks Going Forward

Maintenance of evidence base reports

269 A.O.B.

WS mentioned the strategic drainage survey was agreed with Francesca Hobson (WBC AD Environment & Safety) way back in May 2022. Nothing has happened to date and in the light of the recent serious flooding in Hurst, not seen for a number of decades, perhaps we need to apply some pressure or certainly remind WBC of their agreement.

ACTION: JE/WS

Date of the next meeting 23rd August, 2023

Meeting closed at 20.55pm

Signed:

Date