
CHILHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held at Chilham Village Hall on 28th July, 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Hardisty, Linter, Lulham (Chairman), Marriott, Schofield, White and Whiting

Apologies: Cllr Heasman, Rooke-James

In Attendance: Mr G Dear (Clerk), Boro Cllr Dehnel, 17 members of the public

Prior to the meeting, there was an Open Forum at which parishioners presented the following comments regarding the Draft Ashford Local Plan to 2030:-

- 1) Future Development of the Mulberry Hill site: concern that the proposed restrictions set out in Policy S41 might be relaxed in the future to allow more dwellings on this site.**
- 2) Council response should emphasise the fact that Old Wives Lees is not suitable for development as evidenced by the none of the sites submitted here have been selected.**
- 3) Infrastructure funding: concern that recent history has shown that this was not adequate.**
- 4) Neighbourhood Plan: concern that the parish needs one to defend against future development and that this should focus on the young and the elderly.**
- 5) Council response should recognise that 40 new dwellings had been allocated to the parish in the last local plan.**

7/14 Apologies

Cllrs Heasman and Rooke-James had advised the clerk they could not attend due to business commitments. These apologies were accepted.

7/15 Planning

Response to Draft Ashford Local Plan:

A paper setting out the approach agreed at the July meeting for responding to this consultation had been publicised with the agenda together with links to the consultation documents and a presentation given by ABC officers to parish councils. Correspondence from a parishioner had also been circulated to councillors. Cllr Lulham used the presentation given by ABC officers to structure the debate and the following comments were agreed:

Strategic Policies (SP1 to SP6):

Tacit support with the proviso that providing the required infrastructure should be given the highest priority especially in rural areas. Parish Councils should have a greater role in defining the wider infrastructure package in their area. Reassurance was required that targeted employment growth required to support the planned housing growth was realistic and sustainable. Strong support for SP6 (Promoting High Quality Design) and view that this must be vigorously enforced.

Housing Policies (HOU1 to HOU5):

Policies needed to restrict unsustainable housing developments in rural areas. (Policy HOU4 (c) addresses this.)

Support policy for Affordable Housing and in particular the 40% level for Rural Areas.

Support policy for Local Needs/Specialist Housing and the need to include a sustainability requirement. (Para 5.25 in policy HOU2 addresses this.)

Land at Mulberry Hill (S41):

Agreement in principle to this type of development in the parish, but concerns as the site has no credentials over and above a site in the parish that was recently rejected by the planning inspectorate listing the unsuitability of the settlement of Old Wives Lees for this type of development (see Appeal Decision APP/E2205/W/15/3139821).

Tourism (EMP11):

Concern that no recognition of Chilham as an important tourist attraction in the borough and need to establish stronger links with Canterbury.

Environmental Policies (ENV1,3,13 &14):

Support for policies covering Landscape Character and Design, Conservation of Heritage Assets and Conservation Areas. Concern that the Biodiversity policy lacks teeth and did not contain a method for quantification.

Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule:

Support.

The meeting closed at 9:11 pm.

7/16 Date of next meeting

4th August 2016 in Old Wives Lees Village Hall

7.15pm for 7.30pm

PLEASE NOTE: All updates reported under Matters Arising are recorded in *black italics*. All agreed actions are recorded in *red italics*.