

**Meeting of the HEBDEN ROYD & HILLTOP PARISHES JOINT
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Held WEDNESDAY 26TH JULY 2023

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors: Slater (Chair), Boden, Butterick, Greaves, Hedges, Hayes, Kimber.

Also Present: One Member of the Public

HRTC Deputy Clerk: E Green

121. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE HEBDEN ROYD AND HILLTOP PARISHES JOINT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING COMMITTEE 2023/24

It was Moved by Cllr Hayes

Seconded by Cllr Hedges and

RESOLVED: That Cllr Boggis be Chair of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee for 2023/24.

In the absence of Cllr Dyter and considering that it is Blackshaw Parish Councils turn in the rotation. It was decided to postpone the election of Deputy Chair until the next meeting.

122. To receive apologies for absence and any substitutions.

Apologies were received from Cllr Boggis and Cllr Dyter with Cllr Greaves acting as a substitute.

123. To receive members` interests relating to agenda items for this meeting.

No interests were declared.

124. To report on matters arising from the minutes of meeting held 7th November 2022 not itemised on this agenda.

In respect of item 239, it was discussed that there was still a lack of clarity about the powers held by CMBC or any intentions that they may have with regard to second homes in the area. The HRTC Officer will follow this up.

125. INTRODUCTION TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING COMMITTEE

The HRTC Officer gave an overview of what a Neighbourhood Plan is and the Neighbourhood Planning process to date including the in-depth consultation, the issues relating to the change of officers at CMBC and the delays caused by the lengthy explanation of CMBC's own Local Plan. The current complexities arising from the Reg 14 Consultation and subsequent CMBC comments were explained.

126. TECHNICAL ADVISOR

The communication from the Technical Advisor was discussed. The committee acknowledged the reasons for resigning and gave thanks for the tremendous amount of work that has been undertaken to support the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was moved by Cllr Kimber

Seconded by Cllr Slater and

RESOLVED: To thank Anthony Rae for all the years of dedicated support to the Neighbourhood Plan. His input was hugely significant and has been instrumental in progressing the plan.

127. CALDERDALE COUNCIL - POLICY SUPPORT

The recent meeting with Paul Copeland (Planning Strategy Manager CMBC) and Ronan Canarly was discussed. The meeting had been very productive with much worthwhile input from CMBC. They had suggested reviewing the Neighbourhood Plans existing policies as a starting point to establishing a future direction. This task was completed swiftly, and this committee have now had sight of these comments. The comments suggest that around 16 of the 36 policies are removed.

The committee needs to consider if what is left of the Neighbourhood Plan after this has done is still a document which adds significant value to the Local

It was moved by Cllr Kimber

Seconded by Cllr Butterick and

RESOLVED: To delete the policies as suggested by CMBC to enable the remaining framework of the plan to be clearly established.

ACTION: delete policies and rewrite text as appropriate.

ACTION: Add a column to the comments document to enable changes to the plan to be documented.

128. FUTURE STRATEGY OF THE NEIGHBOUHOOD PLAN

The future strategy of the Hebden Royd & Hill Top Parishes Neighbourhood Plan, including application for redesignation, its priorities and what it should deliver, was discussed.

The requirement for a Health Check was discussed though agreed that the plan should be progressed further before this is formally undertaken.

It was moved by Cllr Boden

Seconded by Cllr Kimber and

RESOLVED: To invite Paul Copeland to the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee to explain what the next steps and future of the Neighbourhood Plan could be.

ACTION: Once established create a separate plan document highlighting tasks to be completed and expected timeline.

ACTION: Circulate a date for a September meeting to enable progression.

**Meeting of the HEBDEN ROYD & HILLTOP PARISHES
JOINT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING COMMITTEE
Held MONDAY 16TH OCTOBER**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors: Boggis (Chair), Boden, Dyter, Kimber, Hedges, Hayes, Kimber & Slater.

HRTC Deputy Clerk: E Green

230. To receive apologies for absence and any substitutions.

Apologies were received from Cllr Butterick and Cllr Greenwood.

231. To receive members` interests relating to agenda items for this meeting.

There were no interests declared at this point.

232. To report on matters arising from the minutes of meeting held 26th July 2023 not itemised on this agenda.

As per minute 121 the election of Deputy Chair remained outstanding.

It was moved by Cllr Boden

Seconded by Cllr Boggis and

RESOLVED: That Cllr Dyter be elected as Deputy Chair of the Joint Neighbourhood Planning Committee.

233. WINDFARM PROPOSAL

Consideration was given to the proposal for a windfarm to be constructed on Wadsworth Moor. 98% of the site lies within Wadsworth Parish with the remaining 2% in Oxenhope. Whilst the site will have an impact on the wider HX7 area, it is Wadsworth Parish that will be the most directly impacted, and Heptonstall will also be affected.

Discussions focused on access requirements for construction, it was outlined that £4m has already been spent on this project and that there is a connection to the National Grid at Padiham. This will be a 300mw site with an expected build time of two years and a shelf life of 30 years. It was noted in the scoping report, that at the end of its life the turbines would be removed and the site restored, but that anything at a depth of greater than 1m would remain in situ, including cabling and batteries.

Whilst it is noted that there is a £75m community Fund, councillors felt that this was nowhere near an appropriate sum, equating to only £150 per annum for homes in fuel poverty in Calderdale over the 30 years.

There are notable benefits to the development including moorland management and tree planting. Investment in renewable energy in inevitable and onshore sites cost around 40% less to develop than their offshore counterparts.

Wadsworth and Heptonstall Parish Councils will be inviting Cavendish Communication to a meeting of their council, and also hope to have a private meeting beforehand. Hebden Royd Town Council will do the same.

At this time, councils need to be furnished with as much information as possible about the scheme to develop a depth of understanding and to have answers to important questions such as the Net Gain of the site.

234. REVIEW OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROCESS

Following the comments made by CMBC in respect of the Regulation 14 Consultation and subsequent meetings, a revised Neighbourhood Plan was presented. This showed all of the policy areas which were required to be removed so that councillors could consider if the remaining policies provided a substantial and significant document against which planning applications could be assessed.

Since work started on the Neighbourhood Plan, due process has been followed, and whilst keeping in lock step with the now adopted Local Plan, a number of policy areas have proven not to be aligned with the Local Plan. This includes some of the Neighbourhood Plans overarching principles such as the development on valley bottom brownfield sites over greenbelt in the uplands.

The Neighbourhood plan has explored a number of issues which are important to people living in the area; however, it would now seem that these are not going to be able to be successfully progressed through the Neighbourhood Plan. The committee must be mindful of resources which have already been spent and what may be required to continue with the plan. But furthermore, the committee was unsure what the plan could now deliver, and in a format that is sufficiently robust to stand up to referendum.

It was moved by Cllr Slater

Seconded by Cllr Boggis and

RESOLVED: That this matter should be taken to a meeting of each constituent council for a decision to be made on whether work on Neighbourhood plan should continue, and if so, what form this should take.

It was acknowledged that over the past ten years, the committee has Joint Committee has worked effectively, generally there has been a consensus in the room, and it has strengthened the relationship between councils, particularly between Hebden Royd and the rural parishes.

It was moved by Cllr Boden

Seconded by Cllr Slater and

RESOLVED: That the idea of a joint parish forum should be explored. This may only meet twice per year but would give the councils the opportunity to embrace the existing synergy and to progress some of the key themes developed in the Neighbourhood Plan through other means such as lobbying. Councils could also share information and offer support on key issues affecting the wider area.

**Meeting of the HEBDEN ROYD & HILLTOP PARISHES
JOINT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING COMMITTEE
held WEDNESDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2024**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors: Dyter (Chair), Boden, Butterick, Hedges, Greenwood & Slater.

HRTC Clerk: J. Boom

401. Apologies for Absence and any substitutions

Cllrs Boggis, Kimber and Anthony Rae.

402. Members` Interests relating to agenda items for this meeting.

There were no interests declared at this point.

403. Matters arising from Minutes of Meeting held 16th October 2023 not itemised on this Agenda

There were no matters arising.

404. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING PROCESS

Responses received from the member councils of the Joint Neighbourhood Planning Committee were discussed and considered.

The meeting agreed that sadly the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the nominated area is now complete.

The previously circulated amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan made by Calderdale MBC's Planning Department have rendered the majority of policies unnecessary. As such the Neighbourhood Plan is unable to deliver a robust and strategic supplementary planning document against which effective decisions can be made. Member Councils and Councillors were disappointed in this action, much time and expense has been wasted but agreed that there was little point pursuing this under the circumstances.

This is a regrettable decision as so much hard work has gone into the project over the years and a scandalous amount of public money has been wasted.

It was agreed to write to CMBC to formally confirm the end of the process and to express the disappointment in the lack of support and guidance received from CMBC that has led to this outcome. Changes in planning personnel within Calderdale MBC over the years and their different perspectives on the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan have proved to be a major problem, aligned with demands for further inclusions in the Neighbourhood Plan and delays to the completion of the Local Plan these have severely affected the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan.

In addition to informing Calderdale MBC of the decision Locality must also be formally advised of the decision and thanked for their support throughout the process.

Thanks were expressed by the members of the committee for the hard work and diligence undertaken throughout the process by Emma Green and Anthony Rae, as a co-opted member, who have invested a great deal of time and dedication into the task and should be highly commended for their efforts. John Kimber was also thanked specifically for leading Wadsworth Parish Council involvement in the process.

Note: Cllr Hedges arrived.

405. HILL TOP PARISH MEETINGS

The meeting discussed a desire for the five parishes involved in the Neighbourhood Plan to continue to meet, retaining a mechanism to exchange ideas and experiences.

The meeting discussed how this desire could be best met on what was viewed as one of the positive points taken from the creation of the Joint Neighbourhood Planning Committee.

It was moved by Cllr Slater
Seconded by Cllr Boden and

RESOLVED: to recommend to each of the five parish councils involved in the Joint Neighbourhood Planning Committee that they develop a terms of reference for the group, which may wish to cover issues that are imminent that will have significant impact on the member councils. The meeting recommended that membership be set at two councillors per member council and that the group continue to meet at Hebden Bridge Town Hall at a mutually convenient time for all member councils.

Cllr Dyter proposed that Blackshaw Parish Council initially lead the initiative with regular rotation of responsibilities amongst the member councils.

Meeting finished at 7.46pm.