

**Meeting of the HEBDEN ROYD & HILLTOP PARISHES  
JOINT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING COMMITTEE  
Held MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.