



NORTH HORSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF NORTH HORSHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT ROFFEY MILLENNIUM HALL, CRAWLEY ROAD, HORSHAM ON THURSDAY 23rd JULY 2026 COMMENCING AT 7pm

Present: Councillors: Mrs. K. Burgess*, J. Dancer*, J. Davidson (Chairman), Mrs. G. Davidson-Fernandez, Mrs. J. Gough, R. Knight*, D. Mahon, S. Raby*, T. Rickett B.E.M., D. Searle, N. Simmonds, J. Smithurst*, S. Torn, R. Turner and Mrs. S. Wilton (Vice-Chairman)

* denotes absence

In attendance: Sarah Norman (Clerk)
HDC Cllr Walters

FC/50/26 Public Forum
An HDC Councillor was present in the public gallery.

FC/51/26 Apologies for absence
The Council received apologies for absence from Cllrs. Burgess, Knight & Smithurst.

With regard to Cllr. Smithurst, Members were aware of the reasons for the absence and **AGREED** to **APPROVE** his absence thereby resetting the 6-month disqualification period.

FC/52/26 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of Interests.

FC/53/26 Consultation on Main Modifications for Local Plan 2023-2040
The Clerk's report was **NOTED** as were the consultation documents emailed with the Agenda and available online.

Following discussion it was **AGREED** to submit the following responses.

- i) MM109
Request that the modification include clearer details of the classes referred to.
- ii) MM145 & MM147
Whilst NHPC understand the pressures being placed on HDC regarding an increase in the number of dwellings, it is questioned whether the proposal to intensify development at Mowbray is appropriate.

This application has been through many years of scrutiny and examination and the current figure of 2,750 has always been considered the maximum. A great deal of time has gone into ensuring that the housing provided is placed into a well thought out and pleasant community for what will eventually be essentially a small village in its own right.

A further increase of over 18% on that already approved (which is what a further 500 homes would be), would be to the detriment of the development and the over intensification would impact negatively on both the existing and the future residents in this community.

The Parish Council would therefore urge this additional 500 to be distributed between other, new sites for which the planning and overall design/layout is yet to be considered.

iii) MM234

This site has already been the subject of application DC/20/0470 which was refused by HDC on 29th July 2020 with the Appeal dismissed on 30th July 2021.

Reasons for refusal of the appeal included significant harm to the landscape and visual qualities of the site means that the proposal would not conserve and enhance the landscape and scenic beauty of the High Weald AONB stating “In terms of policy and statute, the notion of relative beauty, and the fact that the appeal site is not with in deep countryside, with other areas perhaps having greater scenic beauty, is not important. Neither is the fact that the appeal site is a tiny corner of the much larger AONB, two fields out of some 10,000. Nonetheless, the assessment of harm to landscape and scenic beauty set out above is qualified.”

Whilst the site represents a westerly portion of the previous site, should not the comments of the Inspector regarding the setting preclude this area from being included within the Local Plan? To include this smaller site would herald the erosion of the boundary of the AONB.

Members were also reminded that they can submit individual responses via the HDC website.

FC/54/26 Scoping Consultation for Horsham District 2045

The Clerk’s report, including the Key Questions and Scoping Consultation as circulated with the Agenda, were **NOTED**.

Following discussion, it was **AGREED** to submit the following responses to the consultation :-

1. All of the points listed in the examples are important and should be considered but Members particularly felt that service infrastructure such as water, sewerage, education, health and power (gas/electricity) were of the greatest importance.
2. The Council would support a) (A) the creation of a large new town where all necessary infrastructure can be created and tailored to the new community rather than existing facilities including the road network needing to be altered and/or extended.
3. (a) Members would support development with densities similar or better (i.e. less dense) than the existing communities and recent developments, as these result in better environments for residents.

(b) With regard to design, Members would like to see a mixture of styles but highlighted the importance of retaining where appropriate traditional styles reflecting local, Sussex, characteristics.

4. The Council would like engagement via email and more importantly, in person.

FC/55/26 Mowbray Community Building

The Clerk's report with reference to L&G offering freely the collateral warranties for the new Community Building at Mowbray were **NOTED**.

Following discussion, it was **AGREED** by a majority vote to accept the offer of the warranties, subject to review and the relevant professional advice, with any associated costs to be funded.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.32pm.

Signed

Date