

PETWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

A MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH APRIL 2014 IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Mrs E Hodgkins, (Chairman) Mr B Walsh,
Mr N Fox, Mr D Burden, Mr J Riddell,
Mr D Cooper and Mr C Kemp.

CLERK: Mrs J Huggett.

1. Apologies were received from Mr K Lintill and Dr R Pawsey.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr Cooper said as he had previously mentioned he is standing down as Chairman and asked for nominations. Mr Kemp proposed Mrs Hodgkins, this was seconded by Mr Burden. As Mrs Hodgkins was willing to stand and there were no other nominations, on a vote, she was unanimously elected.

Mrs Hodgkins took the chair and thanked everyone for electing her.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th February, having been circulated, it was proposed by Mr Walsh, seconded by Mr Burden, that they be passed and signed, subject to the following amendment.

5. Report on Funding Application to locality. Delete 'Mr Walsh said this would depend on the agreement of the Finance committee' and insert 'Mr Walsh said money cannot be carried over from one year to the next.'

(b) The minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 17th March, having been circulated, it was proposed by Mr Kemp, seconded by Mr Walsh, that they be passed and signed.

5. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FROM NEXUS PLANNING

Mrs Hodgkins referred to the plan sent in by Nexus Planning, comments had been received from Dr Pawsey who is not able to be present, and she asked for other members' views. Mr Fox said as very few Neighbourhood Plans are being carried out he wasn't surprised that they lacked experience. However he was concerned about their professional qualifications and the level of the proposed fees, and wondered if the Town Council would accept these. So far only £17,000 of funding is in place and he didn't like the idea of committing £30,000, and it could be more, without a guarantee of funding. Mr Walsh said he has been told there will be further money from both Locality and the SDNPA, but the present grants have to be spent first. Mr Kemp said the Council has reserves, this sort of project which will benefit the community is what they should be used for and he suggested that the Council be asked to underwrite the remaining £13,000. A discussion followed, Adams Integra had already been rejected and it was now a question of AirS at a cost of £13,500, or Nexus Planning at £30,000. Mr Riddell said AirS has done Petworth proud in the past and they do have the advantage of local knowledge, but Mrs Hodgkins considered they are light on the planning side. Nexus Planning has the advantage of a solid background with the backing of an international company but she is concerned about the exclusion of amendments to the plan following submission to the planning authority and attendance at the examination. She would also like to know more about the Core Management Team and the Project Team. After further points had been raised it was agreed that Mrs Hodgkins e-mail Mr Kingham asking for clarification.

7. APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS

It was proposed by Mr Walsh, seconded by Mr Kemp that, subject to Mrs Hodgkins receiving a satisfactory response to her questions, Nexus Planning be appointed as consultants. Mrs Hodgkins will put this to the full Council at its meeting for ratification and will also request that the Town Council guarantee the fee not yet covered by the Locality and SDNPA grants and the Council's contribution.

8. SDNPA'S LOCAL PLAN & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

Mrs Hodgkins said that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is replacing the current S106 funding. A minimum of 25% will be received from new build. Mr Cooper said SHLAA sites are extremely important and it could be possible to see an income stream over a long period.

Mr Cooper said he is very concerned that in the Local Plan Petworth is only ranked Level 3, the same category given to small villages, and he felt it is important that a response is put in requesting that this be raised to Level 2. If the town stays at Level 3 it won't receive the same support and attention from the local authority as it will at Level 2. Mrs Hodgkins will put this to the council at its meeting.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 20th May, 7.00 pm in the Town Council office.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Petworth Traffic Calming: Mrs Hodgkins circulated a written paper she had prepared for this group on 'Draft Proposals for Petworth Traffic Calming Measures', together with a plan of the town with proposals. She asked that this be looked at so it can be brought to the next meeting for discussion.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.