

# HARPSDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held  
in Old Orchard House, Harpsden, RG9 4AX  
at 5.00pm  
on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Present: Cllr Kester George (KG) Chairman  
Cllr Matt Leeman (ML) Parish Councillor  
Cllr Dominic Day (DD) Parish Councillor

In attendance: Anne Marie Scanlon (AMS) Clerk

## **3064 Apologies:**

Cllr Catherine Rubinstein (CR) Cllr Matt Phillips (MP)

## **3065 Declarations of pecuniary interests and/or requests for dispensations from Members regarding any item on this agenda:** There were none.

## **3066 To review and sign off on the Neighbourhood Plan and to confirm that Henley Town Council will submit the Neighbourhood Plan 2020-2035 to SODC in accordance with Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) on behalf of Harpsden Parish Council.**

The Chairman tabled a copy of the draft Neighbourhood Plan 2020-2035 (JHHNP) for reference as well as his list of the policies and objectives most relevant to Harpsden, previously circulated in an email.

In discussion of the JHHNP's objectives it was agreed that the most important were EO1, the protection of the AONB and Harpsden Valley; HO2, keeping Henley and Harpsden distinct settlements, and HO3, prioritising the redevelopment of brownfield sites. In this context it was noted that the choice of Highlands Farm (Site M1) was not entirely compatible with objective HO3, a point picked up below.

KG reiterated the Council's previous view that the Highlands Farm site had been compromised by its position next to the development of Highlands Park and was now caught between the edge of Henley along Greys Road and the new development, a fact that much reduced its value as a green field. Most significantly, it offered the best available land for a mix of housing, affordable, social and that at normal market prices, as well as land for employment use. It also could provide the housing numbers demanded of us with possible scope to make up for slippage elsewhere.

In further discussion it was noted that enlarging Highlands Park would increase the pressure on Gillotts Lane, but it was unanimously agreed that on balance it was still better than having to recommend any of the more rural green field sites in or impinging on Harpsden, including Lucy's Farm, Juliet Noble's meadow and the two sites in the parkland between Harpsden Court and the A4155. The one regret felt by all members was that we could not take the playing fields at Gillotts School out of the Plan for legal reasons. Despite this disappointment members confirmed unanimously that they were ready to sign off the JHHNP 2020-2035 without further amendment.

Finally, discussion turned to the need to confirm that members were content for Henley Town Council to submit the Plan on their behalf to SODC in accordance with Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General Regulations 2012 (as amended), and this was confirmed unanimously on the understanding that no change would be made to either the primary objectives or the choice of sites.

**Approved:** ..... **Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
**Kester George, Chairman**