**DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee held in the Anzac Room, Community House on Tuesday 19th July 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Alan Milliner (Chair), Cllr Isobel Sharkey (Vice Chair), Cllr David Seabrook (Vice Chair of Council), Cllr Sue Griffiths, Cllr Cathy Gallagher.

**Officers**: George Dyson (Deputy Town Clerk & Civic Officer), Vicky Onis (Committees & Assistant Projects Officer).

One member of the public was in attendance.

1. **PH1421 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair opened the meeting at 19:27, welcomed everyone and went through the building fire procedures.

1. **PH1422 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Mike Gatti, from Peacehaven Focus group, read out the following statement:

*On behalf of Aimee Harman and the ‘Heathy Browers’ residents group, they would like to thank Cllr’s Sue Griffiths and David Seabrook and also Vicky Onis of PTC for their help and support with the planning application LW/22/0380 to install a phone mast on Heathy Brow. They are most grateful for their kind assistance.*

*This planning application has raised an important issue. That of the woeful notification of planning applications to residents, and the abysmal planning portal website, that unless you know how to navigate it, is impossible to use. Even our LDC District Councillor couldn’t find the logged comments!*

*May I ask that this committee requests that a review of the notification process and the planning portal is made to ensure that it is fit for purpose, in order that residents can be given sufficient notice to consider applications, and make comments and take action as they see fit. As there are more of these masts proposed for the town this is becoming more of an issue with residents.*

Vicky Onis (Committees & Assistant Projects Officer) reported that she has already contacted Lewes District Council by email about this concern and is currently waiting for a response.

1. **PH1423 TO CONSIDER APOLOGIES FOR ANY ABSENCES AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies were received from Cllr Paul, Cllr White, and Cllr Harris.

1. **PH1424 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

There were no declarations of interest.

1. **PH1425 TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF 28TH JUNE 2022**

Proposed by: Cllr Sharkey. Seconded by: Cllr Griffiths.

The minutes of the above meeting were **resolved and adopted**.

1. **PH1426 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM CLLR CATHY GALLAGHER ON THE EMERGING NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Cllr Gallagher informed the Committee work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan is progressing at quite a pace now in preparation for the schedule 14 consultation.

The plan will be going to full council meeting in September as August is now too soon.

Nancy Astley will now be giving her training session on the use of the neighbourhood development plan design guides & policies in response to planning applications at 7pm on 9th August 2022.

This report was **noted**.

1. **PH1427 TO NOTE AND REVIEW THE COMMITTEES BUDGETARY REPORT**

The Committee **noted** this report.

1. **PH1428 –** **TO REVIEW THE PLANNING CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE POLICY**

After a discussion on this policy, the Committee felt it would be a good idea to send the policy to Nancy Astley to get her comment on the policy at the next Committee meeting.

1. **PH1429 – TO NOTE AND DISCUSS CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM CLARKE TELECOM**

Cllr Seabrook raised some concerns with regard to the correspondence from Clarke Telecom, including:

* Some of the details in the document do not appear to add up, in particular why the new masts are needed to operate at a frequency that they’re not using.
* It would be good to see a ‘bigger picture’ – if these masts will need to be put in at approximately half mile intervals, what other sites are being looked at.
* A 20m mast (as is proposed) is around the height of a 6 storey building – considerably higher than the nearby flats at the proposed site.
* What effect might this have on Honeybees and insects – Professor Dave Goulson from Sussex University has expressed concern about the lack of research done on 5G and insects.
* Why aren’t these masts being shared by multiple phone companies.

Cllr Seabrook also asked whether phone masts are mentioned in the Neighbourhood Plan, and whether Lewes District Council have a policy on the subject.

Cllr Gallagher asked whether we need to contact Lewes District Council about any plans relating to policies on phone masts, or whether it is just done on an ad-hoc basis.

Cllr Griffiths asked if there has been any consideration for mitigating against visually impaired people walking into the mast, and pointed out the correspondence had been sent to District Councillors in the North ward, whereas the proposed development is in the West ward.

Cllr Milliner suggested that we should make comments back, and to make enquiries with Lewes District Council as to whether there is a policy relating to phone masts.

**Action** – Town Clerk to respond to the correspondence from Clarke Telecom with appropriate comments from this Committee.

**Action** - Committees & Assistant Projects Officer to contact Lewes District Council regarding whether there is a policy relating to phone masts.

1. **TO COMMENT ON THE PLANNING APPLICATIONS AS FOLLOWS:-**

**PH1430 –** LW/22/0447, 213 Arundel Road West

It was proposed that the Committee support this planning application.

Proposed by: Cllr Sharkey. Seconded by: Cllr Griffiths.

The Committee **resolved** unanimously to this proposal.

**PH1431 –** LW/22/0414, 60 The Promenade

Lewes District Council are not accepting comment on this application as it is a permitted development.

The Committee **noted** this application.

**PH1432 –** LW/22/0392, 196 Arundel Road

It was proposed that the Committee support this planning application.

Proposed by: Cllr Seabrook. Seconded by: Cllr Sharkey.

The Committee **resolved** unanimously to this proposal.

1. **PH1433 – TO NOTE THE FOLLOWING PLANNING APPLICATION DECISIONS**

LW/22/0261, 36 Cornwall Avenue

LW/22/0344, 38 Vernon Avenue

LW/22/0302, 128 Arundel Road

LW/22/0346, 29 Neville Road

LW/22/0292, 95 Malines Avenue

LW/22/0225, 82 The Promenade

The Committee **noted** these planning application decisions.

1. **PH1434 – TO REVIEW AND UPDATE THE P&H ACTION PLAN AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS REQUIRED**

The Committee highlighted that the action plan had not been updated following the previous Committee Meeting.

Cllr Seabrook asked that in relation to agenda item 1, that the Town Clerk investigate whether Barratts would be open to giving Peacehaven Town Council the concrete path from Lower Hoddern Farm to Centenary Park along with the green area they have already agreed to. **Action** – Town Clerk.

Actions to also be added onto the action plan as per agenda item PH1424.

The next meeting of this Committee was confirmed for 9th August 2022.

*There being no further business the meeting ended at 20:14.*