



PADDOCK WOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP
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**MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 19th July 2017 at 8.30PM AT THE WESLEY CENTRE, PADDOCK
WOOD.**

PRESENT: Sarah Hamilton (SH), Meryl Flashman (MF), Richard Barsley (RB), John Flashman (JF), Andy Mackie (AM), Ann Newman (AN), Mike Ridger (MR), Rebecca Roberts (RR), Jeremy Thompson (JT), Carol Williams (CW).

IN ATTENDANCE: Andy Clements, David Marriott, Mark Noterman, Paul Smith, Elizabeth Thomas (TWBC/PWTC)

APOLOGIES: David Henshaw, Jim Large

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday May 2017 were approved.

2. Matters Arising

- Due to her concern about possible conflicts of interests SH has decided to step aside and allow someone else to take the project forward but she indicated her willingness to stay on the Steering group. SH thanked the Steering group for their help and support in particular that from MF.

As no one else was wished to take over the role of Chairman it was unanimously agreed that MF should do so.

- CW stressed that the Neighbourhood Plan is a project of the Town Council with a formal governance document. Legally the Town Council has to lead the project.
- The importance of the policy documents currently being written was emphasised, as ultimately future planning applications will be judged against them.
- Two differing version of the Issues and Options document have been submitted to TWBC – one from PWTC and one from NP. The significant difference was the priority in which the five options should be delivered.

JT expressed concern about this. It was agreed that there is a need to ensure that things are co-ordinated in the future.

3. Paddock Wood Town Centre

The majority of the meeting was spent discussing Paddock Wood Town Centre. Many ideas were put forward which might be included in the draft Town Centre policies.

It was agreed that parking was a significant problem in the Town Centre and that the Town did not need any more charity shops, betting shops or estate agents. The possibility of a two storey car park at the station was discussed.

Other issues discussed included:-

the derelict land in the town centre;
the possible location of a hotel on the north side of the railway;
a farmers' market;
the need for a nighttime economy (cafes, bars, restaurants);
a residential mix in the Town Centre that could focus on the elderly;
extending the area of the Town Centre.

RB reported that no-one who was part of the Town Centre group had the time to collate all the information that the group had gathered. The Business Association has agreed to part fund employing someone to collate the policy for them if the Steering Group would match fund it. It was unanimously agreed that the Steering Group would be prepared to do this. RB agreed to approach the person who was taking over as Secretary of the Business Association in September.

CW to send RB a possible structure to use.

RR to extract some key ideas from other Neighbourhood Plans and send them to RB

The group were reminded that Hilary Smith at TWBC would be worth contacting.

4. A.O.B

- MF to discuss increasing the amount of support provided by the Town Council to the Neighbourhood Plan with Nichola Reay (Town Clerk). CW offered to take the minutes at future meetings.
- Members were provided with copies of the Neighbourhood Plan Governance Framework which will be discussed at the next meeting.

- The John Brunt VC has re-opened as a public house. It needs to have a good reputation before being registered as an asset of community value.
- Graffiti in and around Paddock Wood was discussed.

- 5. DATE OF NEXT STEERING GROUP MEETING:** Wednesday 16th August 2017, 8.30pm
- 6. Dates and times of future Steering Group meetings:** 20th September, 18th October, 15th November, 20th December at 8.30pm