



PADDOCK WOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP
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**MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 18th October 2017 at 7.30PM AT THE WESLEY CENTRE, PADDOCK
WOOD.**

PRESENT:

Meryl Flashman (Chairman of Steering Group, Town Councillor, Heritage Group)
Carol Williams (Steering Group Secretary, Town councillor and lead for Sports & Recreation Group)
Richard Barsley (Steering Group member, member of PWBA and lead for Town Centre Group)
John Flashman (Steering Group member, Heritage Group & Town Councillor)
Sarah Hamilton (Steering Group member, Town/Borough/County Councillor & Lead for Heritage Group)
Jim Large (Steering Group member, Heritage Group, WRAG)
Anne Newman (Steering Group member & resident)
Mike Ridger (Steering Group member, chairman of PW Athletic Club, Sports and Recreation Group)
Rebecca Roberts (Steering Group member & lead for Green Infrastructure Group)
Jeremy Thompson (Steering Group member & resident)
Rodney Atkins (Town Councillor & Resident)
Esther Garrity (resident, U3A)
Fred Lemont (resident, U3A)
Elizabeth Thomas (Chair Paddock Wood Town Council and resident)

APOLOGIES:

David Henshaw (Steering Group Treasurer & Councillor)
Andy Mackie (Steering Group member, Community Centre representative)
Paul Smith (Business Owner, Resident and PWBA)

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Subject to the following two amendments the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20th September 2017 were approved

- Agenda item 5 should read:
Sports & Recreation – have identified **three possible sites** for a sports hub. Ideally all outdoor sports facilities should be on one site. **Some of the** current facilities are disjointed and old.

- Agenda item 9 paragraph 2 should read: The Chairman would *speak* to Sarah to discuss.

2. Information items arising

- A) RR reported that she has been investigating Easement (the right to use the property of another's) in relation to Church Farm. People have been walking in this area for many years and RR has discovered that as a result an easement can be applied for to allow people to continue to do so although evidence of its use for walking for more than 20 years would need to be provided. AN provided her with additional information from the Ramblers website. It was agreed that RR should continue to research Easements and would report further at the next meeting.
- B) SH circulated the Heritage document which it is proposed to send to Richard Eastman once the document has been shared with the Steering Group.

She drew attention to the following:

The Wesley Centre is the last Victorian building in public ownership and has a stained glass window.

The Cricket Pavilion was built by Halls in 1950 to commemorate those who had died in the war.

Fancy brickwork & Kentish ragstone were widely used e.g. Local church.

The flint frontages of the houses in Green Lane are not typical of this area.

In response to a question by AN Sarah explained that planning permission has been approved for two houses to be built behind the funeral directors. The existing barn may be demolished but there is evidence that it is a bat habitat.

SH was asked whether it would be a good idea to place Tree Preservation Orders on the trees along Maidstone Road. She stated that these were owned by the Council and there are no plans to remove them.

RB requested that the station as a heritage site should not be overlooked.

3. Report from the Chairman

Richard Eastman is still waiting for the additional green space and heritage material, before it can be determined whether an environmental assessment is needed.

His team is combining the policies into one style and ensuring there is no unnecessary duplication. At the same time they are developing robust policy wording.

It was agreed that the group leaders should meet to discuss the second call for sites prior to next month's meeting. MF to organise.

CW to ensure this is also discussed by the Planning and Environment Committee of the Town Council. SH suggested that this committee should also review the land owned by the Town Council and use a land agent to review its Estate.

4. Green Infrastructure Draft Policies

The Green infrastructure draft policy document was circulated.

RR drew attention to the key aspects of the five policies which also detail how each element can be achieved. Eg how to reduce the impact of development, inclusion of hedgehog holes, toad traps in drain covers on the routes that the toads take etc.

SH thanked the Green Infrastructure Group for all the work they had done. She also drew attention to the work done in this field by Steve Songhurst.

The Green Spaces map and key were presented to the group and there was a discussion about additional items to be added to the document. RR agreed to add these items and email the document to MF as soon as possible.

RR drew attention to an area of land along Badsell Road (with horses) which the Foalhurst Wood Group would like to swap for part of the land leading to Brick Kiln Wood to maintain a corridor for wildlife. This area comes within the new development and needs to be discussed by the Planning & Environment Committee of the Town Council.

5. TWBC Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Survey (for community groups)

MF and CW met to complete this survey (closing date 13th October).

Highlighted issues:

Larger area required for sports and recreation with increase in population.

Lack of youth/teen facilities

New developments should include designated sports and recreation facilities

Necessity of preserving wildlife areas and habitat and wildlife corridors

Need for a park in Paddock Wood, overgrown footpaths, need for more cycle paths

Importance of town edge location for noisy activities eg team sports, skate parks.

6. Update on Community Centre

The Community Centre working group met on Tuesday 10th October to plan the Community engagement event on Saturday 4th November to be held outside Paddock Wood library between 10am and 1pm

Concern was expressed that the event has not yet been advertised. It was explained that this would take place in the two weeks prior to the event.

The plans for the possible interior layout of the Community Centre were shared.

Disappointment was expressed that the plans do not show the possible exterior of the Community Centre. Some members of the group felt that, unless there was a visual picture to look at, the public would not support the project. It was explained that until this cannot be developed until the internal layout has been finalised.

MR explained the stages involved in developing the Community Centre project in more depth - SH questioned the need to move forward with the project so quickly.

CW stated that it was important not to lose sight of the work that had already been done with the public about the preferred location and internal layout of the Community Centre.

MR reported that he & Kay Groves are now also representing the public on the Community Centre group and intend to insert monthly project updates in the Town Crier.

It was also suggested that people should be able to use Social Media/ PWTC website to answer the consultation questions. ET agreed to speak to Nichola Reay.

Communication with the public/Facebook

MF apologised for not having copies of Sarah Mewett's report available and agreed to circulate it by email.

Sarah's suggested poster was shared with the group and was an excellent start to promote discussion. The following was agreed.

- No leaflets should be distributed until there was an event to advertise.
- A variety of communication methods need to be used in order to reach as many people of different age groups as possible. Facebook, emails, leaflet drop, Town Crier, Contact, Council noticeboards, sending leaflets out via organisations (schools, athletic club, U3A newsletter, placing leaflets in prime locations around PW etc)
- There should be an electronic email drop to all those who have given us their email addresses, a leaflet drop to all houses in Paddock Wood and the distribution of leaflets in Paddock Wood Town Centre.
- Due to data protection considerations Nichola Reay is to be asked to investigate whether the email drop needs to be done from a computer in the council offices or whether it can be done from a private computer.
- The poster needs to be very eye catching and relevant to Paddock Wood using photographs of the locality. It also needs to have a hook. Writing needs to be large and bold. Colour scheme needs to be considered. It is important to remember that the majority of posters will only be A5.

7. Any Other Information

Consultation on the application by Brenchley Parish Council to designate a neighbourhood area is taking place from Monday 9 October to Friday 3 November 2017

The Hawkhurst Neighbourhood Plan six week Consultation has now been completed. There were 58 responses including those from the developers.

There is a mistake in the Town Centre draft policy which refers to the A224 instead of the A228.

The Town Centre land appears to be under offer. The "For Sale" board adjacent to the cottages on Station Road has been removed.

8. DATE OF NEXT STEERING GROUP MEETING: Wednesday 15th November 2017, 7.30 pm

9. Dates and times of future Steering Group meetings: 15th November, 17th January, 21st February, 21st March, 18th April, 16th May, 20th June, 18th July at 7.30pm