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RURAL NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE (AREA NORTH AND WEST 1)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 20 JUNE 2012, 7.00 pm
AT NEWBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL, PETERBOROUGH

Members Present:

Barnack	Councillor Over
Eye and Thorney	Councillors McKean and Sanders
Glington and Wittering	Councillors Holdich and Lamb
Northborough	Councillor Hiller
Newborough	Councillor Harrington (Vice Chairman)

Co-opted Members Present:

Ailsworth Parish Council	Councillor Richard Perkins
Bainton and Ashton Parish Council	Councillor Nicola Clough
Deeping Gate Parish Council	Councillor Jane Hill
Glington Parish Council	Councillor Denis Batty
Helpston Parish Council	Councillor Joe Dobson
Peakirk Parish Council	Councillor Sally-Ann Jackson
Thorney Parish Council	Councillors Pat Murphy and J Brooks
Ufford Parish Council	Councillor Marian Brown

Officers Present:

Julie Rivett	Neighbourhood Manager, PCC
Laura Almond	Assistant Neighbourhood Manger, North and West, PCC
Gemma Wildman	Principal Strategic Planning Officer, PCC
Alex Daynes	Senior Governance Officer, PCC

Others Present:

2 other members of the public attended the meeting representing Eye Community Association and Eye Youth.

ITEM	DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS	ACTION
1. Apologies for Absence	Apologies were received from Eye Parish Council, Henry Clark from Peakirk Parish Council and John Bartlett from Thorney Parish Council.	
2. Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations of interest.	
3. Minutes from the Previous Meeting	The minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2012 were approved as a true and accurate record.	
4. Open Session	No issues were raised for discussion	
5. Matters for Committee Decision	a) Election of Vice Chairman Cllr Harrington proposed by Cllr Hiller and this was seconded by Cllr	

	Holdich. No other nominations were received. Cllr Harrington to be vice chairman for the 2012/13 municipal year.	
6. Matters of Interest Relevant to the Committee	<p>a) Statement of Community Involvement</p> <p>Gemma Wildman introduced information about the SCI and how communities and local groups could become involved in establishing planning documents for the area in which they live including Neighbourhood Plans and Community Action Plans. Council assistance was available to establish the plans but financial costs and other more detailed work was for the local groups to undertake. The proposals were currently out for public consultation until 5 July.</p> <p>Comments and response to questions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gemma Wildman - all options in the document involve community groups to develop them. Julie Rivett – the Community Action Plan should be community led too, not by PCC but very much in partnership; • GW – The document requires pre-application consultation with the community to determine acceptability for larger applications of 200 houses or a similarly large development. Cllr Hiller – consultation on planning applications would also continue much as it is now. For any size development, developers would be encouraged to consult locally first to pick up issues early on in the process; • Cllr Hiller – if a developer wanted to build outside a village envelope, the application would be processed as it would be now. The Local Plan, 2005, and Core Strategy determined village envelopes. Not allowed development outside envelope unless outstanding circumstances. Gemma Wildman – must still comply with existing local policies for the area; • Cllr Hiller – If a village wanted to develop land, it could approve or allocate an area for development in a Neighbourhood Development Order; • Gemma Wildman – It could be set out in each plan how long it would last. Normal time span could be 15 years but it would be for the neighbourhood to set the time; • Gemma Wildman – currently seeking clarification from government on what size development would ensure community consultation. There was still a 21 day consultation period for all planning applications. Cllr Hiller – planning consultation not the same as being approached directly and pre-consultation; • Gemma Wildman – any developments would have to contribute to and meet housing requirements of the Core Strategy. The Site Allocations Document gives indicative number for each site, for developers to show how they would meet this. The new plans could state the type of housing that was wanted in the village; • Gemma Wildman – currently PCC could only accept two neighbourhood plans per year for assessment and development but four neighbourhood forum plans. Would then have a waiting list but could increase budgetary provision if demand was high; • Cllr Hiller – all applications would have to go through the normal planning process; • Marian Brown – if a long queue, can one be done within the ward and put supplementary pages in for each parish to reduce cost. 	

	<p>No need to do any other plan except Nhood Plan. GW – If a village has a supplementary planning document (SPD), there may not be a need for a full Neighbourhood Plan. The SPD could include more in the existing SPD for villages. Could have a ward based/wide neighbourhood plan if desired to share the work. Julie Rivett – More detail could also be added to Community Action Plans;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr McKean – if a neighbourhood plan included provision/facilities needed for villages, how put in plan to get budget? JR – Community facilities such as sports, parks etc and the need for them in villages could be covered by the CAP as long as the need for them was identified. Gemma Wildman – Neighbourhood Plan is about land so would only be able to say what pieces of land would be used for; • Cllr Over – cost would be too high for most villages. SPD, already exists and supported. An attachment to SPD on vision for village could be done? Gemma Wildman – yes; and • Cllr Over – regarding social and economic strength of the village, could use CAP but also CAP for some planning issues. <p>Cllr Holdich leaves.</p>	
	<p>b) Neighbourhood Committee Budget 2012/13</p> <p>Julie Rivett tabled information on spending in the previous year and progress on projects and requested how this year’s budget should be spent. Should it be divided five ways for each ward?</p> <p>Comments and responses to questions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julie Rivett – only Capital projects could receive the money. Usually capital projects cost more, however, many were contributions to larger capital projects so were permitted; • Julie Rivett – Playschool landscaping work around £15k sounds acceptable but landscaping not always clear what it involves. Would have to discuss with finance colleagues; • Julie Rivett – The spending should not create more revenue costs unless prior agreement from that department such as Highways; • Cllr Sanders – support ongoing split of the £25k five ways for each ward. Cllr Lamb, seconded this proposal. All members agree. • Julie Rivett – please send spending proposals to ward councillors who will send the ones they select to the Neighbourhood manager to validate; and • Cllr McKean – not always a lot of money so more in the funding from council would be more beneficial. 	
	<p>c) Question and Answer Session – National Planning Policy Framework</p> <p>Cllr Hiller was available to answer any questions on the NPPF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Hiller – if more protection of green land and opens spaces was needed, this could be done achieved, possibly with a Supplementary Planning Document. Gemma Wildman – could 	

	<p>be done through a Neighbourhood Plan or an addition to a SPD. Cllr Hiller – any planning application, including any on the Peakirk Wildfowl Trust site, would be based on their merits. Would like to see that site protected. Replacing existing buildings with a similar one would be difficult to refuse;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gemma Wildman – The open space strategy was an evidence document to show open spaces, but adds to the Planning Policies DPD to show where the open space is so would not build on that open space; • Cllr Hiller – Even though the NPPF was now adopted, it is not possible to just develop open land. Mainly continue the planning processes that were already in place; and • Cllr Hiller – the NPPF was compatible with the Core Strategy. Government has approved the Core Strategy. Gemma Wildman – Core strategy written on government guidelines and is compliant with NPPF. Cllr Hiller – confident won't be challenged on Core Strategy or Local Plan. 	
	<p>d) Work Plan</p> <p>Those members and public present were requested to suggest agenda items for future meetings. These included:</p> <p>September – finance/budget item. Jo Dobson – ‘what is a village?’. Quality of life in villages to be maintained. Need to define what is a rural area or a village to form a policy to adopt or define this. Julie Rivett – the overarching Rural Community Action Plan would be a strategic plan to influence rural policy</p> <p>February – Cllr Over – many local wildlife and natural areas, could each be connected by a wildlife corridor as a northern boundary for the city? Don't have to own the land but could link them. If a link in a greater wildlife corridor it could further protect the site. Sally-Anne Jackson to present proposals at the February meeting. Cllr McKean – Eye also has sites. Consider wind farm development too. Outside village envelope is lower rates of land price.</p> <p>Cllr Hiller – Local spending items for village should come to this meeting, not be directed to the full council budget process. Sally – should ask for increased budget?</p>	<p>JD</p> <p>SJ</p>
<p>7. Next Meeting</p>	<p>The next meeting was to be held on 19th September 2012, venue to be confirmed.</p>	

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Item	Action	Responsible	By when
Work Plan	Define what is a village – characteristics, economy, social functions etc	Cllr Joe Dobson	September meeting
Work Plan	Identify possibility of linking wildlife sites in the area.	Cllr S-A Jackson	February meeting