

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of HDC and HALC
Wednesday 30th November 2022
Parkside, County Hall North, Horsham
7.00pm

Attendance

Horsham District Council		Parish & Neighbourhood Councils	
Jonathan Chowen	Leader	Peter Cozens	Amberley
Jane Eaton	Chief Executive	Phillip Day	Billingshurst
Catherine Howe	Head of Strategic Planning	Terry Oliver	Broadbridge Heath
Barbara Childs	Director of Place	Geoff Clark	Broadbridge Heath
Paul Anderson	Director of Communities	Stephen Davies	Colgate
		Donna Everest	Cowfold
		Guy Stanley	Horsham Forest NC
		Daryn Grossmith	Henfield
		Malcolm Eastwood	Henfield & Chairman HALC
		Alan Strudley	Itchingfield
		Donald Mahon	North Horsham
		Ian Hare	Pulborough
		Elaine Kipp	Pulborough
		Paul Kornycky	Rudgwick
		Michelle Cooke	Rusper
		Philip Baxter	Shipley
		Derek Moore	Southwater
		Paul Oakham	Storrington & Sullington
		David Green	West Grinstead
		Justin Reynolds	West Grinstead
		Anna Beams	HALC Secretary

Summary: 14 of the 32 Parish Councils and 1 of the Neighbourhood Councils were represented.

1 Welcome

1.1 Chairman of HALC Cllr Malcolm Eastwood

1.2 Cllr Malcolm Eastwood welcomed those in attendance and recorded his thanks to Horsham District Council for hosting and organising the meeting. He explained that the theme of this meeting is 'working together' based on the excellent working relationship that HALC and HDC have.

1.3 Leader of Horsham District Council Cllr Jonathan Chowen

1.4 Cllr Jonathan Chowen welcomed all present and agreed that the working relationship between HDC and HALC is positive and committed to maintaining that positivity.

1.5 He welcome Jane Eaton, Chief Executive, and Paul Anderson, Director of Communities, to their new roles and added that he would like to move environment issues to the top of the agenda.

2.0 Cost of Living Crisis

2.1 Paul Anderson, Director of Communities, provided an update on cost of living crisis initiatives.

- 2.2 £300,000 has been set aside for cost of living crisis initiatives.
- 2.3 A meeting has been held with Horsham Matters, Age UK and Citizens Advice when it became evident that there has been an increase in members of the community on middle incomes seeking help, as well as those on lower incomes.
- 2.4 HDC are working with the above organisations on a package of proposals and have earmarked a further £250,000 of funding.
- 2.5 £160,000 has been allocated to assist Citizens Advice with the recruitment of two advisory employees who can assist the community with recognising benefits that they may be entitled to.
- 2.6 As demand for food banks is increasing but stocks are low, £25,000 will be used to assist with the replenishment of stocks, particularly fresh fruit and vegetables.
- 2.7 There will be funding available for community groups to bid for grants.
- 2.8 HDC are keen to continue to support parishes and communities and to disseminate information to residents and to continue to build a strong relationship with town, parish and neighbourhood councils.

3.0 **Climate Change Workshops**

- 3.1 Paul Anderson reported on the Climate Change Workshop that took place recently.
- 3.2 21 parish council representatives attended the workshops run by an external firm.
- 3.3 HDC have pledged to be carbon neutral by 2030 and need to work with local councils, businesses and communities to reduce carbon.
- 3.4 Immediate actions have been identified to reduce carbon and a report has been produced.
- 3.5 HDC are drafting a low carbon plan to take to Cabinet.
- 3.6 Parish councils have been invited to follow up workshops to develop their own plans.
- 3.7 Cllr Malcolm Eastwood added that HALC and HDC are committed to running regular workshops. He stressed that it is important that the workshops are engaged and active and that a positive dialogue is maintained and added that he is in the process of agreeing next steps and a follow up session with Helen Peacock, Environment Manager HDC. He congratulated HDC on finding an excellent external firm to facilitate the workshops.
- 3.8 Following a question from the floor, Cllr Eastwood advised that all parishes are welcome to attend the workshops and, if virtual, there is no limit on numbers. Helen Peacock should be contacted to confirm a desire to join the group and to arrange attendance.

4.0 **Water Neutrality & the Horsham District Local Plan**

- 4.1 Barbara Childs, Director of Place and Catherine Howe, Head of Strategic Planning gave the attached presentation (**Appendix A**).
- 4.2 In the short and medium term there is less water available for us to use despite mitigation strategies being put in place.
- 4.3 Existing planning applications will still need to demonstrate water neutrality.
- 4.4 Southern Water now have a mitigation programme in place to demonstrate how they will achieve water neutrality. This has been signed off by Natural England and will need to be monitored by HDC to ensure that the planned improvements are delivered.
- 4.5 Developers will still have to demonstrate water neutrality.
- 4.6 The agreed consumption figure of 85 litres per person. This number has been calculated as a stretching but realistic and achievable target. HDC are working on a method to monitor and measure consumption figures, Southern Water hold the extraction figures which will be monitored. It is critical that water usage is monitored and this will be a year-on-year exercise.

- 4.7 A draft Regulation 19 Local Plan will be published on 7th December before HDC enter into the formal stage of the Local Plan development. This will be discussed at the December Cabinet Meeting before being considered by Full Council in January.
- 4.8 A HALC and HDC event has been provisionally scheduled for 20th January when parish and neighbourhood councils will have an opportunity to discuss the Local Plan with HDC. Any objections will be registered and recorded for consideration by the appointed Inspector.
- 4.9 Cllr Eastwood added that he supports having Local and Neighbourhood Plans in place with communities preferred sites allocated to prevent speculative and piecemeal development and suggested that HALC Members have discussions with their District Councillor colleagues around how best to support their communities.

5.0 **Ecology**

- 5.1 Paul Anderson notified parishes of two ecology workshops taking place. The purpose of the workshops is to work with parishes on the Wilder Horsham District Project and will take place on 2nd February at County Hall North and 9th February at the Ashington Centre. They will both run from 10am until 4pm, further information will follow.

6.0 **Service Issues and Concerns**

- 6.1 Cllr Eastwood explained that this agenda item had been included at the suggestion of Jane Eaton and that examples of positive and less positive matters were invited from parishes.
- 6.2 Henfield Parish Council
- 6.2(a) The Economic Development Team have been very pro-active at finding solutions and grants and work well with community partnership and the parish council.
- 6.2(b) Responses regarding Section 106 allocation have been too slow when the response was negative and the Council could have been advised earlier.
- 6.3 Rudgwick Parish Council
- 6.3(a) A very quick decision was received regarding Section 106 allocation.
- 6.3(b) Planning enforcement is not consistent.
- 6.4 Cowfold Parish Council
- 6.4(a) have an excellent dialogue with District Councillors
- 6.4(b) communications received from the planning department have been poor, with applications not being shared at all or shared after the applications have been closed.
- 6.5 Broadbridge Heath Parish Council
- 6.5(a) have received excellent service regarding allocation of Section 106

7.0 **Q&A Session**

- 7.1 No questions

8.0 **AOB**

- 8.1 No other business

9.0 **Close**

- 9.1 Cllr Eastwood thanked HDC Officers for their time and for hosting the meeting and added that he appreciates the dialogue and working relationship that HALC and HDC have. He thanked the parishes for attending and closed the meeting.
- 9.2 The next HALC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 22nd February 2023 at 7pm on Zoom.

Horsham Association of Local Councils
Chairman: Mr Malcolm Eastwood
Email: horshamalc@gmail.com

Meeting closed 21:00