

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON
TUESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT 7.00PM**

PRESENT: Cllr Alexander (Chairman)
Cllrs, Lloyd, Bowell, Muncey & Toomey.
There were 4 members of the public present
The Clerk was in attendance.

1.0 APOLOGIES -

1.1 There were apologies for absence from Councillor Ness-Collins

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

2.1 There were no declarations of interest from Councillors

3.0 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

3.1 It was **proposed** by Cllr Alexander and **seconded** by Cllr Lloyd that the minutes of the Meeting held on 21st January 2014 be agreed and **signed** by the Chairman. This was agreed.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS

4.1 Cllr Lloyd proposed setting up a working group, seconded by Cllr Muncey to look at updating our Conservation Area document. This was Agreed. To circulate Conservation document for comment before adding our comments.

5.0 Questions from the Floor

The meeting was suspended to allow questions from members of the public.

- Greening group in support of application for Huddlestone farm in principle but having looked at it in more detail and it does need to be sensitively planned. Re-assured that animals will continue to be grazed. Opportunity to build a community connection to this project.
To allow the fields to be open for learning opportunities.
To make a contribution to a local community fund i.e the addition of solar panels on a building.
Some element of community ownership of the panels.
Have spoken to developers and there may be some possibility for some of this.
- This will be in the most beautiful part of the countryside and feel this is happening in the wrong place. It should be sheltered in some way but it could be a long time before trees and shrubs hide it. It will be a blot on the landscape. Will cause a run off of water towards my property. Environment agency will not take any action. Concerns over CCTV cameras. Not anti renewable energy but feel this is wrong place. Two other applications for solar panels locally and digester and this will not leave any scope for others to do anything with renewable energy.
- Visual effect of panels on side of hill and can be seen a mile away. Steyning walks would be affected by view of the panels.

- On the issue of the run off, the field has a water capacity and panels will not increase rainfall. Site chosen carefully and the trees will break the view of panels up. Agriculturally it is not a good field.
- Conservation issue, no-one knows what the effect on wildlife will be with the solar panels. Panels are not efficient producers of energy.

The meeting was re-convened.

6.0 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

6.1 DC/13/2420 – Huddlestone Farm, Horsham Road – Solar farm comprising arrays of photovoltaic panels and ancillary plant, equipment housing and underground cable to connect park to the national grid.

OBJECTION – The committee does not object to the development but wishes its comments to be considered. Cllr Alexander **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Lloyd that there was no objection subject to the Environmental Officers and Ecologists reports. Committee would wish to see some community involvement in the scheme. This was Agreed.

It was noted that the land can be re-instated after 30 years, no concrete or permanent structure. The site has been well chosen. There was concern over the footpath and the natural walk.

6.2 DC/14/0061 – Star Inn, 130 High Street – Fell 1 x Conifer tree

Objection – would like the Arboricultural Officer to inspect because the tree is heavily laden with ivy and if it had some attention it may not need felling.

7.0 LATE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None for this meeting

8.0 ENFORCEMENT NOTIFICATIONS

8.1 None for this meeting.

9.0 PLANNING DECISIONS FROM HDC

AGREED

DC/13/2348 – 9 Coxham Lane – Roof and rear Extension to house.

10.0 CORRESPONDENCE

None for this meeting

11.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 18th February 2014 at 7pm.

The chairman closed the meeting at 7.35 p.m.