

Battle Town Council



Minutes of the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING & REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY, 20th MARCH 2024 at 9 am at The Almonry, High Street, Battle

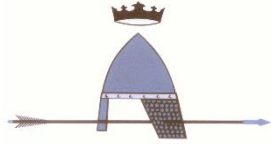
Present: Cllr D Silk (Chairman), N Bishop, M Howell, B Marks

In attendance: J de Garston (Assistant to Town Clerk)

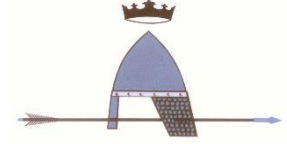
1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Dale Wheeler & Bernard Brown
2. **Disclosure of Interest** - None
3. **Minutes of the meeting of 13th December 2023** were duly agreed & signed by Cllr Silk.

Members agreed to bring item 12 forward for discussion

12. **Consider the frequency of future sub-committee meetings** – members agreed meetings at quarterly intervals require time being spent on recapping previous discussions which results in lengthy meetings.
Action: Members unanimously agreed to Cllr Silk's proposal that members allocated tasks at the quarterly IMR meetings could meet, either informally or as a Task & Finish Group, to progress matters and report back at the following quarterly IMR meeting. These intermediate meetings are to be held at a date and time to suit members.
4. **Assistant to Town Clerk's report** – JdG confirmed a response from RDC regarding the reconsideration of CiL Funds for Blackfriars had been received. Cllr Kathryn Field has subsequently reported to BTC Full Council that she had challenged the comment that the amendments did not constitute a new planning application when a S73 had been applied. She was awaiting a response.
5. **Action Plan** – BM presented an Action Plan, as attached, which was prepared from the design of the Planning & Transport Committee Action Plan with the objectives of the NP IMR SC included. The monitoring of the overall NP was discussed as the current report is not in a deliverable format at present. BM advised the production of the report should lie with an officer of the Town Council. NB requested an update on the monitoring spreadsheet currently updated by Cllr Wheeler on a regular basis.
Action: The Action Plan was unanimously approved by members. Members request an update from Cllr Wheeler on the completion of population of the spreadsheet for monitoring. JdG to ascertain and to report back to members the date for submission of annual report to Council, is this to the Annual meeting in May?
6. **Heritage Listing** – BM reported there are two versions of the Heritage Listing on the website. Comparison is required, taking into account items on the errata listing, to confirm the correct version.
Action: BM agreed to carry out the comparison, with version control measures in place to ensure clarification of the final version. MH to assist.
7. **Assets of Community Value listing** – It is noted that not all the proposed assets meet the requirements. BM advised there had been several versions created throughout the duration of the original plan. Assets of Community Value are embedded in the plan, NB advised there had been several deletions since then which will have been recorded in the minutes. NB believed that it had been agreed to apply for ACV status for all items, MH responded that this takes a considerable amount of time online.
Action: NB agreed to check the listing and will report back to members via email.
8. **Request to recommend that Full Council reconsider designation of Green Spaces** – BM provided the background information to the original request in 2021. At that time the National Planning Policy Framework was being altered and it was felt it was important to provide greater protection to the five



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sites proposed. Two sites belong to Battle Town Council, two to Rother District Council and the fifth a community housing provider. The Town Council had sought legal advice which had advised against the designation.

Members discussed reasons for considering the reconsideration by Council without reaching consensus.

Action: BM to review information being released by Open Spaces Society for current advice, DS to assist. This will be discussed again at a future meeting.

- 9. Request for an update on Rother Local Plan review** – The public consultation will be live from 12th April. It had previously been suggested that the NP IMR would welcome the opportunity to have a 1:1 discussion with Rother District Council prior to the commencement of the public consultation to discuss matters specifically affecting the Battle ward.

Action: Members request the Town Clerk contact Rother District Council and request a meeting for IMR SC members and all Councillors of the Town Council.

- 10. Items for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan** – Members noted that there are differing levels of changes that would or would not require a further referendum for inclusion.

DS advised that, now the Declaration of the Climate Emergency has been issued, it is important that, actions or restrictions to mitigate climate change are included in the plan, in a bid to increase bio diversity. In addition, several local Parish Councils are in discussion seeking Dark Skies Certification and this is another area for inclusion (this will be progressed by DS through the Climate & Ecology Subcommittee). A neighbouring authority has recently drawn up a Dark Skies Policy and it was not considered that this was a material change to their plan. Further consideration should also be given to: excluding permission for the use of log burners and fossil fuels in new developments; tree felling (trunks and/or arisings to remain on site for biodiversity habitats), and air pollution.

BM advised any new policies would require careful consideration as previous policies were prepared by the paid consultant to the NP as they are legal documents.

DS reported several of these matters are already being discussed by the Finance & General Purposes Climate & Ecology sub-committee.

- 11. How to document and store future update items proposed for the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Wheeler had presented a proposal for using Google Documents to provide a sharing facility. DS advised this would be managed by the Town Council Officers for permissions to read and/or amend. The monitoring report was discussed as an item for inclusion on the Cloud (i.e. a cloud-based storage under the Council's ownership, rather than on Cllr Wheeler's back-up system).

Action: NB to prepare a report from the monitoring spreadsheet at the beginning of each month which can be reported to Planning & Transport Committee and reviewed by NP IMR members.

Members expressed their gratitude to Cllr Wheeler for the work on this and request Council agree the transfer of Neighbourhood Plan documents to the Town Council for future management.

- 13. Review of sites and development** – MH reported there are several sites approved within the plan which are yet to see any development. Members agreed the function of the Neighbourhood Plan was to identify approved sites not monitor their progress.

- 14. Matters for information / future agenda items**

- i. Consider submission to Rother Local Plan Consultation
- ii. Can a table presentation be made at the Parish Assembly of the Neighbourhood Plan & Rother Public Consultation?
- iii. Consider ways to advertise the Neighbourhood Plan more widely



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15. Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 19th June at 9 am.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:35 a.m.

Cllr D Silk
Chairman

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