

HALSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 2014 in THE PAVILION, STATION ROAD, HALSTEAD AT 18.00

PRESENT: Cllr. Terry Brooker – Chairman of the Planning Committee
Cllr. David Taylor, Chairman of Council
Cllr. Chris Ford
Cllr. Karen Grosvenor

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk, 3 parishioners,
The meeting convened at 18.13

1 APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Bent and Blundell who had previous commitments.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

3 SDC GYPSY AND TRAVELLER CONSULTATION

The chairman outlined the two sites for the information of the parishioners.

Two documents had been provided by Shoreham PC for information but the content was confidential and was not to be broadcast at the meeting.

The points highlighted at the Planning Committee meeting held on 18 June were circulated and discussed.

Points added: report prepared by Salford University will be challenged – validation of data by whom; what training provided by researchers; who accompanied the researchers; did SDC check the report.

Policies state that just because there is a need this doesn't outweigh the harm that would be caused to the Green Belt. Gypsy and Travellers sites are not necessarily accepted development. This was also stated by the Appeal Inspector in relation to the erection of a crematorium in the Green Belt.

Relevant policies relating to the GB will be included.

Information on school numbers were provided by Cllr. Taylor.

It was agreed that the local facilities are not of the standard required by Government policy for gypsies and travellers.

It was agreed that there had been a lack of information from SDC concerning the proposed sites.

Distribution is very unfair with the majority of sites in the north of the district (84%)

The committee expressed concern that SDC had willingly accepted the gift of land from the Simmons family. When the first two planning applications were given temporary consent for three years each, the first time at the High Court, the seconded by the Appeal Inspectorate, it was stated that the site was not suitable for this use but could be used until the young children had left school. The third temporary permission was granted for three years by SDC with the condition when that ended the site should be vacated and return to original state.

It was agreed that KALC should be contacted for advice on what action Council should take concerning this.

The meeting closed at 20.05