

**DRAFT : MAY BE SUBJECT TO ALTERATION
RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 15th October
2015 at 8.00pm in Rodmell Village Hall**

Present: Councillors: John Harvey (Chair : JH) , Richard Sellick (RS) , & Anne Sword-Daniels (AS-D) Judith Bradbury (JB :Clerk), & seven members of the public

Item No		Action
1	<p>Apologies were received & accepted from Councillors John Gillies , David Smart & Jill Goldman. No declarations of interest were made. No requests had been received to consider any dispensations .</p>	
	<p>Public Questions No questions were raised. The Chair invited everyone to take part in the debate to be held on Agenda item 2.</p>	
2	<p>To consider a response to the South Downs National Park consultation on the SDNP Local Plan : Preferred Options</p> <p>JH gave some background to this document & the overall timetable for the eventual anticipated adoption mid 2017. He then invited comments & questions from the floor & a wide ranging debate followed. After further discussion among the Council , the Councillors unanimously resolved :-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">♣ Chapter 7 : Towards a Sustainable Future – Strategic Policies SD23 : Housing</p> <p>To object to the proposed allocation of 11 new houses in Rodmell , & to the proposed allocation of sites to accommodate them . Councillors noted the proposal for the new settlement boundary on Rodmell's Inset Map was contracting & were puzzled by this apparent contradiction. They concluded the Authority might be attempting to direct development opportunities solely to land outside the current boundary ie exception sites which would carry the planning obligation of being 100% affordable homes . They felt the SDNP should be more transparent as to its underlying objective. Absorbing another 11 homes within the village by 2032 would take the increase in overall housing stock since 1997 to 17% which was higher than the national average . This in a National Park with a primary purpose ' to conserve & enhance the natural beauty , wildlife & cultural heritage ' . Councillors did not object to all new builds outright , & were open to a smaller number of homes being built over the plans full 15 year period. These they proposed should be considered on a piecemeal basis as & when planning applications were submitted.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">♣ Chapter 6 : People Connected with Places – Strategic Policies SD 20 : Sustainable Tourism & the Visitor Economy</p> <p>To support the strategy that it must be demonstrated that any proposed on-site facilities will not have an unacceptably adverse impact on the vitality of assets of community value .</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">♣ Chapter 7 : Towards a Sustainable Future – Strategic Policies SD23 : Housing</p> <p>To comment on the proposal that development proposals within estates & large farms supporting diversification maybe exceptionally considered</p>	JB

	<p>appropriate as part of an Estate or Farm Plan . Clarification needs to be made as to what constituted a large farm or Estate ? Clarification was required as to what be judged to be 'appropriate diversification ' . Finally the Council wished to suggest that the process whereby a Estate/Farm Plan was drawn up must be open to public scrutiny & comment .</p> <p>▲ Chapter 5 : A Thriving Living Landscape – Strategic Policies SD5 : Landscape Character</p> <p>To comment on both Points 2a) & 2b) with the recommendation that 'soil quality' should be added to the list of requirements to help counteract the problem of long term soil degradation /erosion.</p>	
3	<p>Finance</p> <p>The following cheques were authorised for payment :-- 000226 £88.92 (Vat £14.82) Lewes District Council . Dog Bin emptying 01/10/15-31/12/15</p>	JB
4	<p>Recruitment of a new Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer</p> <p>The Council unanimously resolved to nominate Councillors Gillies , Harvey & Smart to the recruitment panel .</p>	JB
	<p>The meeting closed at 9.00 pm. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday 2nd November 2015 . Please get any suggestions for the agenda to the Clerk by Thursday 22nd October 2015.</p>	