

Hoo St Werburgh Parish Council
Summary Report from the Planning Committee Meetings held in May 2020 via Zoom

***Councillors Present: Tildesley
Rees
Sands
Fray
Pearce
Williams
Freshwater***
Also, Present: Parish Clerk.

The meeting was Chaired by Cllr Sands.

The Parish Councils Planning Committee met on 18th of May and 27th of May to discuss the following:

- 1. PC response to the Planning for Growth on the Hoo Peninsula.***
- 2. The appointment of a Planning Consultant to assist with the Local Plan response by the Parish Council.***
- 3. Communication with residents.***
- 4. Meeting with Medway Council officers.***

Planning for Growth on the Hoo Peninsula

The Planning Committee initially met on 18th May to consider the draft responses put forward by Cllr Williams and Cllr Pearce to the Planning for Growth on the Hoo Peninsula document.

It was agreed that both papers covered all of the points of concern to the PC, however the response put forward by Cllr Pearce was too long and repetitive.

It was agreed that the Planning Committee would ask Cllr Pearce to redraft his response document to cut down the length and make it less aggressive in its tone.

A further meeting then took place on 28th May to discuss the revised response documents from Cllr Williams and Cllr Pearce.

Members put forward their views regarding the content of the responses and Cllr Sands asked all members of the Planning Committee to vote on their preferred response for the Parish Council.

A vote was cast 3 votes to 2 with an abstention from Cllr Williams in favour of submitting the response from Cllr Williams to Medway Council.

***Recommendation to Full Council: To submit the paper drafted by Cllr Williams as the Parish Councils response from the Parish Council.
Copy attached.***

Local Plan – Appointment of Consultant

Members considered whether the Parish Council would benefit from the appointment of a consultant to assist with the local plan response by the Parish Council.

Councillor Rees stated that she had drafted a specification for the Parish Council should they wish to proceed with this.

This was discussed and it was agreed that in the first instance the Parish Council should liaise with neighbouring parish councils to see whether they would be willing to join forces to consider the response and action to take in relation to the Local Plan.

Recommendation: that the Parish Council sets up a meeting and invites neighbouring parish councils to attend and work together with HPC regarding the Medway Council Local Plan.

Communication with Parishioners.

Cllr Sands suggested that the Parish Council should send a letter to all residents outlining the Parish Councils position with regards to development in the area. He stated that he felt that residents should be made aware of the Parish Councils views.

Cllr Fray stated that she felt that not all residents may think that the proposals for the Peninsula were a bad idea as they were shaping the area for the future. Cllr Rees agreed with this view and stated that any communication should reflect this.

This was discussed further by members and it was agreed that a recommendation would be put to the PC for regular communication to be sent to residents to update them on developments and the views of the PC. The method and the cost would be explored further if approved.

Recommendation: To send regular communications to residents to keep them updated on the PC position and action regarding development in the area.

Virtual meeting with Medway Council Officers.

Cllr Sands reported that a virtual meeting had been arranged with Medway Council Officers, Dave Harris, Martin Hall, Catherine Smith, and the PC Planning Committee to discuss the Planning for Growth on the Hoo Peninsula consultation and Local Plan on 3rd June 2020.

A report would be given to the Parish Council at its meeting on 4th June 2020.