

Minutes: 7/7/25

Sellindge Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Minutes of the Meeting held on

Monday 7th July 2025 at 7pm

in the Durling Hall, at the Village Hall

1. Welcome and apologies

Present 9 people – which included members of the Steering Committee, members of the public and Parish Councillors.

Apologies received from 1 person.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

2. Project Plan Going Forward

The Chairman updated the Steering Group on the latest decision by Central government regarding the availability of funding for Neighbourhood Plans.

Following the government's latest spending review, there will be no further grants to qualifying bodies (QBs) – Parish or Town councils and neighbourhood forums – for neighbourhood plans but any technical support already committed to such as the Design Codes will continue to be supported.

Given that the Parish Council embarked on the NHP having received funding for the first stage of the project – the material change in financing options meant that three options had to be considered:

- 1) Continue NHP
- 2) Reduce scope and produce NPS
- 3) “Pause” and restart once financing clarified

Current cost estimates for the Parish Council would be the following:

NHP - continuation circa £XXXXX (plus Health check costs /poss. additional advice).

NPS – to produce requires a re-write and re-focus (but does not have same “weight”) circa £XXXX.

Given:

- 1) Ongoing projected costs – now to be borne by PC only.
- 2) Uncertainty of Folkestone and Hythe DC position going forward.
- 3) Fact that Aecom report will be completed – already paid for.
- 4) Ethos report already completed – already paid for.
- 5) NHP drafted and can be paused and restarted.

Accordingly, when the Finance committee for the Parish Council met, the decision was made to “pause” the NHP going forward until there is greater clarity of possible funding sources and also an understanding of what government changes will mean for KCC and FDHC in terms of next stage review and final reports.

The Chairman recommended this approach to the Steering Group on the basis of the validity of the NHP draft version already produced and the “weight” that it would hold when compared to an NPS.

This position was accepted and agreed. It was further agreed to close the “Steering Group” as of this meeting and should the plan be restarted then it would be re-instated.

It was also agreed that no further costs towards the production of the NHP would be incurred by any members of the Steering Group.

The Chairman will continue to review the funding options with the Parish Council and will provide any updates to the Group as they become available.

3. Meeting close

The meeting closed at 8pm.