

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2017 AT COPYTHORNE PARISH HALL (REAR EXTENSION)

Present: Councillor Joe Reilly (Chairman), Councillor Simon Lucas (Vice Chairman), Councillors John Goodwin and Sarah Coombs.

In Attendance: County Councillor Edward Heron, District Councillors Diane Andrews and Les Puttock

18 members of the public.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Margaret Weston

435. Agenda Item 5 – Affordable Housing

Vice Chairman Simon Lucas explained that the purpose of this Agenda item was to bring forward an updated report on the work recently undertaken on the potential for affordable housing development. The report was presented by the Parish Council Affordable Housing Working Group (AHWG), working with the Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing (HARAH), also involving English Rural Housing Association (ERHA) and New Forest Villages Housing Association (NFHA) as partners. The content was not for discussion today but was presented for consultation purposes only and it was the way forward that should be agreed now.

It was further explained that the organisations had been working together since 2014 and originally 27 sites had been identified, which had been whittled down to just three. These were Site 1B (Uncle Tom's Cabin – site adjacent to Romsey Road), Site 5 (Site behind the Haywain PH) and Site 12 (Poultry Farm adjacent to Chinham Road). It was emphasised that the housing numbers would be small and in two groups. The houses would be for local people and there would be no right to buy.

It was then noted by a member of the public that the map showing Site 12 was inaccurate and a request was made that the document be removed from the Parish Council website. The Clerk gave an assurance that this would take place.

Vice Chairman Simon Lucas suggested a rerun of the public consultation on 30 March 2017 at Copythorne Parish Hall. There would at that time be a form where comments could be added and returned to the Clerk to the Parish Council. This would also be available on the Parish Council website. It would contain spaces for comment on each site and a fourth box for general comments. The information could then be collated into a report.

A further report resulting from the information fed into the form would be reported back to the Parish Council in late June. If a decision is made to proceed the process would commence with HARAH AND ERHA.

There were several comments from residents including whether landowners had been contacted (Yes), whether other considerations had been taken into account such as flooding, etc (too time consuming at this stage) and concern was expressed at the level of consultation that seemed to have taken place.

Councillor Goodwin asked if details would come back to the Parish Council and was informed that they would. He explained that the Parish Council had discussed affordable housing through the NFNPA scheme and asked if it could be made available to this parish.