 HIGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Highley Parish Council Planning Committee Meeting held in the HPC office at The Severn Centre on Tuesday 26th August 2025 at 6.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs T. Pinches (Chair), A. Edwards P. Vinall, D. Thakrar.

**Clerk:** Alison Palmer

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**01.Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs T. Quinn, H. Hancox

It was **RESOLVED to ACCEPT** these apologies.

**02.Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Edwards declared an interest in application ref: **25/02375/VAR** as school governor

Cllr Vinall declared an interest in application ref: **25/02350/OUT** as leader of the Barns residential group and his spouse also in the room.

**03. Parishioners Question Time**

Steve Swann (Wrekin Housing Trust) discussed local demand for affordable housing in Highley and seeks advice from HPC for the need.

Craig Bethel, Rural Housing Enabler, discussed the housing needs survey that he can carry out.

Charlotte Prince leads on the new development for their group, says there is a need for around 40+ houses in Highley.

Jane Kind, specialist in Older Persons Housing, discusses the need for property for those needing assisted living support.

While their Housing Team has expressed concern over relet demand based on current stock, they understand the Council supports further development due to a perceived local need.

**04. Minutes**

To approve the minutes of the meeting of Highley Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st July 2025

It was **RESOLVED to ACCEPT** these minutes as a true record.

**05. Members are requested to make comment on the following applications**

**25/02375/VAR** Variation of condition no.1 to Planning Permission allow retention for further 10 years. Highley Primary School Demountable.

Cllr Edwards abstained from voting.

It was **RESOLVED to SUPPORT** this application.

**25/02224/FUL** Construction and laying of stone tiled patio adjacent to the house to include retaining wall and stone walls to the sides. The Barley Mill, Rhea Hall Farm. Mr Peter Dawson and Mrs Elfriede Stalmans.

It was **RESOLVED to SUPPORT** this application.

**\*It was RESOLVED to SUSPEND Standing Orders to allow speakers from the floor\***

**25/02161/FUL** Residential development of 30 dwellings and associated infrastructure including landscaping, drainage and access from Netherton lane.

Eleanor and her colleague answered questions at this stage from Council and members of the public regarding biodiversity, ecology reports, footpaths and speed limitations at the site. Discussion followed regarding “affordable housing” between a member of the public, the council and representatives of the development.

The session was closed for discussion and the council retired to a separate room for their vote.

It was **RESOLVED to make a REPRESENTATION**

Councillor Vinall and his partner stepped out of the room.

**25/02350/OUT** Proposed Residential Development Land West of Woodhill Road, Highley. Mr Harry Scriven.

Mrs E spoke on behalf of the residents of The Barns regarding the objections that she had shared prior to the meeting. Mr B spoke regarding the residents flooding concerns and ineffective drainage.

This is an outline application only and needs to be acknowledged as such.

The session was closed for discussion and the council retired to a separate room for their vote.

It was **RESOLVED to OBJECT** to this application.

**\*It was RESOLVED to REINSTATE Standing Orders\***

**06. Comments are invited regarding the structures being built at 2 Netherton House as no planning permission can be found.**

Councillor Quinn raised concerns regarding the numerous buildings that have not had planning permission – is it under permitted planning regulations or are the inviting a retrospective application.

It was **RESOLVED to CONTACT** the enforcement officer and request they investigate the buildings.

**07. Members are asked to give instruction regarding the removal of funding for future Neighbourhood Plans** – following the recently shared SALC correspondence: Neighbourhood Plans are an essential tool in the planning system for parish and town councils and will only grow in significance with Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) underway. Without funding, the majority of town and parish Councils will be unable to review their existing NPs. According to para 14 of the NPPF (Dec 2024), NPs are only considered up to date when they have been adopted or reviewed within 5 years. Without the necessary funding to keep plans up to date there is a risk losing all of the work and investment to date in NPs. SALC have produced the attached pack for you to enable you to place the issue on your next agenda and be part of the nationwide efforts to get the support and funding for Neighbourhood Plans reinstated. It is important that the sector has a voice and make its views known to the government and local MPs.

It was **RESOLVED to COMPLETE and RETURN** the letter of petition to the local MP on behalf of HPC.

**07. Decision on future dates and times to be made.**

**It was RESOLVED to SEND a provisional date for the 28th August to be held in the office with the possibility of amending and booking the library.**

Signed dated

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