



Minutes of the meeting of Westhorpe Parish Council held on Tuesday 8 September 2020 at 19:30 in the Village Hall.

In attendance:

Mr D Barker (Chairman), Mr R Lambert, Mr S Christian, Mrs D Gladders, Mr I Cotgrove

Present:

C Kennedy (Clerk)

Andrew Mellen (District Councillor)

#### Public participation

There was 1 members of the public present.

#### 20.23 Apologies and approval of absences

Apologies were received from Cllr Caley.

#### 20.24 Declarations of interest

None.

#### 20.25 To consider requests for dispensations

Not applicable.

#### 20.26 Planning Consultations

a) Changed to the current planning system

Cllr Mellen suggested that the changes were merely tinkering and minor things.

1. Changes to the "standard method" of calculating housing numbers, increasing Mid-Suffolk's numbers (currently 556 homes per year) to around 750.
2. First Homes – this is a rebranding of what were previously called starter homes, developers would make these available for purchase at a 30% discount on market price. They would be required to supply a quarter of the "affordables" as first homes: affordables are usually 35% of the homes built on developments of 9 or more homes.
3. Temporary lifting the requirement for affordable homes in a development from 9 to 40 or 50 homes. This measure could be brought in through a ministerial statement later this autumn and is expected to run for 18 months.
4. Extension of the use of "Permission in Principle" – this is a faster process where sites can be identified for building and move through the planning system quicker – particularly brownfield sites. There's less paperwork but also less fees for the Council.

Councillors' main concerns were in relation to permissions that have been granted and aren't being used, the loss of local knowledge/views/people, the knock on of this on accountability, that it is a mistake to apply one formula/algorithm to the whole country. There were also concerns that there was no mention of sustainable or renewable energy, water and electricity being of vital importance.

b) Planning White Paper

It was agreed that the Clerk would put together a response from the information gathered in the meeting.

20.13 Questions to the Chairman

The Clerk formally resigned.

The Clerk presented a cheque for signature in the sum of £176.36 payable to Business Services CAS Limited for the insurance premium. All were in favour and Cllrs Barker and Lambert signed the cheques.

20.14 Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 3 November 2020.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:50

Camilla Kennedy

Clerk to Westhorpe Parish Council.

*D. S. Barker*  
*3/11/2020*