

Hamsey Parish Council

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Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council

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Minutes of a PUBLIC MEETING meeting held at BEECHWOOD HALL on 24th November 2011 from 7.00pm

Present: 20 members of the public

Apologies:

Cllr. M.Dodd (vice chair)

Cllr.Brian Bates

In attendance: Mrs J.Toomey - Clerk to the Council. Cllr.Bill Rendall Cllr. R.Armstrong
Cllr.Ian Ginn Cllr. J.Harmer Cllr.D.Edmunds (LDC) Cllr.R.St.Pierre (ESCC)

1	Apologies for absence As above	Action
2	<p>An open meeting to discuss the Lewes District Council Emerging Core Strategy Document.</p> <p>Cllr.Ian Ginn took the chair and explained that the meeting had been advertised on parish noticeboards and the website and those who had signed up to the council data base had been informed by email. He invited members of the public to present their views on the Lewes District Council Emerging Core Strategy Document.</p> <p>An Offham resident started the discussion by reading from an email response she had sent to LDC and the parish council.</p> <p>Residents asked why, if LDC needs to provide 10 traveller pitches in the Lewes District, should 7 be placed in the tiny hamlet of Offham.</p> <p>Residents asked why there was no objection to expansion of the site, from ESCC highways. The site is opposite a busy junction, next to a petrol station and on a main A road with a 60mph designation.</p> <p>Residents felt that the site, which was an agricultural field, had been occupied and cleared without any consent. The owner had been asked to reinstate the site but this had not been done. The owner had been asked to improve the line of sight at the entry point but this also, had not been done. They felt the site was in a hazardous position and would cause accidents.</p> <p>Residents pointed out that the government position was against development within National Parks and felt that the SDNP authorities should be brought to task for not objecting to the proposal.</p> <p>Residents expressed concern that if the site is developed by a private owner, individual pitches could be sold off meaning there would be several owners and no controls over the site. As Cllrs. Rendall and Harmer were now present, Cllr.Harmer took the chair. He asked the meeting for a show of hands from all those in favour of the proposal to expand the site. None. Against – all with a couple of abstains.</p> <p>A discussion then took place regarding the proposal for 36 dwellings in Cooksbridge and the sites in Beechwood Lane that were put forward for development. Residents felt the lane was not suitable for more traffic and the junction with A275 was unsafe. There was a lack of facilities in Cooksbridge and a poor bus and train service. One resident felt development opposite the hall was more acceptable now than in the past and would fill the gap between the station and the hall. New development might bring more volunteers into the community and this was badly needed to support the hall, parish council and youth and seniors clubs. Also, it might mean a safe footway was provided.</p> <p>Cllr Harmer asked all those who approved housing on land opposite the hall to raise their hands. 8 votes in favour. 3 votes against. And building on land adjoining the recreation ground – 2 votes in favour and 2 votes against.</p> <p>The chair explained that the council meeting would follow and council would reflect the views of those present in their response to LDC. Everyone was invited to write to LDC as individuals. The chair thanked residents for coming.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.10pm</p>	

JT 28.11.2011

Signed.....(Chair of the parish council)Dated.....