

Village Concerns - Constitution

Aim

1. Village Concerns is an East Hoathly and Halland Parish Action Group. It seeks to protect the character and ambience of the Parish. It will endeavour to ensure that development in the Parish is sustainable. Its Aim is to monitor housing proposals and galvanise the community to either endorse beneficial developments or challenge those that are unsustainable.

Organisation

2. Village Concerns is coordinated by a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is made up of volunteers from within the Parish. The Steering Committee is not fixed and the Steering Committee may coopt additional people. People wishing to join the Steering Committee should inform the Chair. The names of the Chair and Steering Committee are published on the Village Concerns Blog (<http://villageconcerns2016.co.uk>).

3. The Steering Committee will elect a Meeting Secretary and a Treasurer. All elections and decisions will be made by simple majority vote of those present with a quorum of Chair and 4 of the Steering Committee. In the event of tied vote the Chair shall have an additional casting vote.

4. Steering Committee Meetings are arranged by the Meeting Secretary, notified to Steering Committee members via email and the date published on the Village Concerns Blog. An Action List will be produced following every meeting that records the general content of the meeting and lists actions to be followed up and by whom.

5. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to gather information relating to the planning process and current planning applications. The Steering Committee may be given specific areas of the campaign on which to focus. The Steering Committee will then endeavour to inform the public and galvanise opposition to the plans when necessary.

6. People living in the Parish and other interested parties are invited to join the Village Concerns mail, phone or email lists. They will then be contacted with updates on the campaign (villageconcerns2016@gmail.com).

7. Village Concerns will establish and maintain contact with other groups, individuals and elected representatives who may be able to assist in the campaign.

Finances

8. Village Concerns is to operate a bank account. Village Concerns may fundraise to pay for the running costs of the group. This may involve seeking legal advice, planning consultants and the cost of such things as printing/postage.

9. Two Signatories will be required for all cheque payments. Expenditure must be approved by the Steering Committee. An annual statement of Accounts will be presented to the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Dissolution

10. In the event that Village Concerns concludes its campaign the Chair will propose a vote to dissolve the group at the AGM. Any remaining funds will be donated to the Parish Council with a request that the funds are used for the benefit of the whole Parish.

Annual General Meeting

11. Village Concerns will hold an AGM every September. The AGM date and venue will be published on the Village Concerns Blog. Those people named on the mailing and phone lists will be eligible to attend and vote. The AGM will consider any changes to the Constitution and the election of a Chair for the subsequent year.