

MENDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING – 18th OCTOBER 2017

MINUTES [approved by councillors on 20-11-17].

1. The Chairman, Denis Pye, welcomed councillors Thelma Brown, Stewart Orr, Tony Dawson, Jimmy Kent, Kathy Ferrar, Richard Mattocks and Mark Shortt. Apologies were received from Caroline Cardwell, the clerk. Twelve members of the public were also present.
2. **Declarations of interest** were received from councillors Thelma Brown and Stewart Orr in respect of point 3 on the agenda as their properties are in close proximity to potential development sites.
3. **Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils Joint Local Plan.** The Chairman gave an overview of the objectives of the Plan and the meeting was opened to the public for comment:

It was felt that the Plan document was erroneous in considering that Mendham and Withersdale have the infrastructure to be considered a “hinterland” village.

Regarding the two potential sites in Withersdale, it was generally felt that these were not welcome for a number of reasons specifically the road bends, the speed of traffic, the difficulty of egress onto the road, a potential problem of increased flooding on the road due to “concreting over” land currently providing a soak away and the height of the site bringing lack of privacy issues for the nearby properties. A third site not shown in the plan document but apparently showing in an online version would be queried with the council by the Chairman.

The comments on the Mendham site were generally more positive assuming that any development was appropriate in terms of type of properties (ie inclusion of “affordable” housing) but concerns were raised that the parking issues around the site would need to be addressed and that access could prove problematic due to the narrowness of the road. There would also be issues of any new properties overlooking existing ones.

The public meeting was closed at 8pm and the council meeting re-opened.

The development boundaries for each village were discussed. It was decided to leave as recommended in the plan document.

The suggested development sites were discussed individually. Councillors voted not to

support those in Withersdale for the reasons outlined above but were in favour of the Mendham site subject to the appropriate type of housing being included and access and parking issues being satisfactorily resolved. No other sites (apart from possible infilling) were considered to be available.

On the environment, it was felt that any development should not have a detrimental effect on what we have.

The appropriateness of being considered a “hinterland” village was discussed. It was felt that the only alternative being to be considered as two “hamlets”, this was the most appropriate fit.

A discussion was held on the question of where development in the District should be sited without a firm conclusion being agreed.

4. Any other urgent business:

- a) Application DC/17/05115: “Hylow”, Mundys Lane – councillors had no objection to the application to build a garage.
- b) Councillor Thelma Brown gave her apologies for the next meeting.

5. Next meeting – 20th November 2017

The meeting closed at 8.35pm