

Minutes of the meeting of Lower Halstow Parish Council held on Thursday 25th August 2016 at 7.00 pm in the Memorial Hall, Lower Halstow.

Present: Cllr Steve Gates (Chair); Cllr Rob Smith (Vice Chair); Cllr Allyson Beerstecher; Cllr Sue Hartfree; Cllr Keith Howard-Challis;
1 member of the public was also in attendance.

1. Apologies

Ann Smith (Clerk) Cllr Steve Parker

2. Public Questions

A resident expressed concerns regarding the proposed development on land at Forge Lane Upchurch.

3. Declarations of Interest

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests - none

b) Disclosable Non Pecuniary Interests - none

4. Proposed development of up to 110 residential houses on land at Forge Lane, Upchurch.

A discussion about the proposed development took place with councillors expressing their concerns.

Cllr Smith proposed, and seconded by Cllr Howard-Challis that Lower Halstow Parish Council should send a letter of objection regarding the proposed development, all other councillors were in favour.

The main objections were:

- The site falls outside the emerging Local plan.
- Public transport to the area is poor with a very limited bus service and a 2 mile drive / walk to the nearest rail station.
- There is already a significant amount of development proposed within the A2 corridor and this further adds to this, and also increases infilling between Swale & Medway.
- The development is not sustainable, as the village economy means that individuals will have to travel to work. Lanes around the villages of Upchurch & Lower Halstow are already busy and are often used as an alternative to the A2, causing traffic problems within the villages.
- An increase in population will impact on local medical, and other public services.
- There would be a loss of Grade 1 agricultural land, and the character of the village, would be adversely affected by a large development.

The Chair drafted a letter of objections and this was agreed by all councillors to be sent off today by the Chair.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm

Date:

Signed:

Cllr S Gates
Chair