

Affordable Housing January 2026 update

Excerpt from January 2026 minutes: -

3.4 Housing Working Group – All Cllrs had been sent information from Cllr French. Each Cllr was given the opportunity to express their opinions on this. From these comments, the Council has decided to summarise its position thus: -

- The Council generally supports the proven need of Affordable Housing being built in the Village. It needs to be fulfilled as an obligation to future generations, the same as generations before us who supported provision of new housing in the Village.
- The Council is adamant that this should be Rented Social Housing, with a local connection, not shared ownership. This is based on the experiences of other local village developments.
- The Council recognises that site 1 has been granted 'Planning in Principle' and that the advice from the planners is that no other site will be considered. It is noted that Housing Charities will not invest money in pursuing other sites, whilst this is in place.
- With this Planning in principle in place, it is understood that a development may take place with or without the Parish Council involvement. It was felt that it was better to be involved and influence the process than to be outside of it.
- The Council feels it is better to work with an appropriate Housing Charity (as opposed to a private developer) who has experience of development in rural areas. They will expect the support of the Parish Council, if they become involved.
- The Council has reservations about building on greenfield sites but realises that, in the present situation, there is no other option. (All initial considered sites are also greenfield sites)
- The Council recognises the fact that there will be opposition from some residents.
- The Council needs to support the Parish through the process.
- The Council recognises that any building will be taking place adjacent to the conservation area and that materials/systems used should be environmentally friendly and efficient.
- The Council realises that, for residents to make any decisions, there must be a physical idea of what the area would look like, when completed.
- Hastoe is a Housing Charity that has worked with several parishes in the area, and the Council feel it would be beneficial to collect examples of their previous, local work that could be shared with residents. N.B Great Mead in Dunsford is one example

Action All Cllrs