

Sturminster Marshall Neighbourhood Plan

7.30pm Thursday, 14th January 2021

Zoom Meeting

Steering Group Minutes

Present: Mr J Quick, Cllr S Cade, Cllr Palmer; Cllr Fookes, Cllr Gerry, Cllr J Jackson. Mr S Morris, Ms J Scotton; Cllr Steel and Mr R Daniels

Also present: Mrs A Clothier (Clerk), Ms J Witherden

There were 6 members of the public present.

1. Apologies

1.1 There were no apologies

2. Declaration of Interests

2.1 No changes.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting on 10th December 2020 were circulated prior to the meeting. These were approved.

3.2 Matters arising:

Action 1: Clerk to contact Sports Association, football club and school to discuss future needs – Complete. Football Club and Sports Association have responded. School to be contacted again at a more appropriate time.

Action 2: Clerk to contact owners of the 4 suggested sites to find out intentions for the site – Ongoing – one response received so far.

Action 3: Mr Quick to map all submitted sites – ongoing.

Action 4: Committee to view all submitted sites - ongoing

Action 5: Mr Daniels to investigate plans for Henbury Pit – ongoing. Mr Daniels to get a contact for Wilkes.

Action 6: Ms Witherden to double check AECOM Housing Needs Assessment – complete. Report to be published on website.

Action 7: Clerk to apply for SEA technical package – ongoing. Clerk applying for package but it was turned down due to a lack of screening opinion from the Local Authority.

4 Terms of Reference

- 4.1 A draft updated Terms of Reference was circulated to the group before the meeting. The Steering Group were in agreement that this should be adopted.

5. Community Groups Survey

- 5.1 As reported above two responses have been received from the Football Club and Sports Association. These responses will be circulated to the Steering Group. The school have not responded but, due to the lockdown, are very busy.

6. Call for Sites.

- 6.1 4 landowners have been contacted by the group as their land was suggested through the household survey. There has been one response received so far from Hall and Woodhouse to say that no land in their ownership is available. The deadline is the end of January.

7. Site Assessments Technical Package

- 7.1 The Chair and the Clerk had a meeting with AECOM regarding the Site Assessments technical package. They requested written confirmation from the Local Authority to say that the Neighbourhood Plan could look and suggest alternative sites. Dorset Council have replied to the Steering Group to say that they do not want the Group to look at alternative sites. The guidance that Dorset Council referred to related to strategic site allocations and policies but the ones that are being suggested are only in draft form and their plan may change. Wareham has been allowed to take the lead in allocating sites.

- 7.2 AECOM need 12 weeks to complete the survey and they cannot start without confirmation from Dorset Council. The Local Plan timetable states that the next consultation will be September but this is more likely to be December. This decision causes difficulties for the group as it means that there will be no extra funding or technical packages if the Neighbourhood Plan does not make Site Allocations, although it was thought that Design Codes might also trigger this. The group discussed looking at sites without AECOM and conducting a screening exercise to eliminate some sites. Ms Witherden raised that this may cause difficulties where professional judgement on transport impact, heritage setting etc were needed. It was concluded that the way forward would be to discuss the decision with Dorset Council and to arrange a Zoom meeting with Mr Reese.

Action 1: Clerk to arrange meeting with Mr Reese.

8. Local Greenspace Study

- 8.1 The Environment group have looked at the various sites nominated and have been mapped. Group to send findings to Ms Witherden for comment.

9. Dorset Local Plan

9.1 The consultation begins 18th January. There will be a page in the Bridge explaining the difference between the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan. The group were advised to look at the Sustainability Appraisal which will look at the site assessments.

10. SEA

10.1 Progress on this is stalled due to the requirement for a Screening opinion. Mr Daniels to start the screening process.

11 Date of next meeting

11.1 The Vision and Aims were raised as they may need to be reviewed. The character of the village is divided into three elements – the older part, the railway development and the newer development. Keeping the vision vague will allow it to be more specific when needed. The household survey will give some pointers.

11.2 The group spoke about other work that that can be moved forwards whilst the issue with Dorset Council is being resolved. Footpath/Cycleways Audit will look at current usability and where there are opportunities for new links. The northern section of the Local Plan extends the Trailway but the South Eastern section does not mention linking it. Mr Gerry to put together some notes on the footpaths and bridleways.

11.3 The programme was discussed and this needs to be reviewed. The next meeting will also discuss the Steering Group's response to the Local Plan and how this will relate to the Parish Council response. It was suggested that the Parish Council respond to what is being proposed in the Local Plan whilst the Neighbourhood Plan group look at what the Neighbourhood Plan could achieve and what conflicts with this in the Local Plan.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 9th February 2021 at 7.30

The meeting ended at 8.50pm