

# Sturminster Marshall Neighbourhood Plan

7.30pm Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Sturminster Marshall Memorial Hall

## Steering Group Minutes

Present: Mr J Quick, Cllr H Palmer, Cllr S Cade, Mr R Daniels, Cllr H Fookes, Cllr M Steel

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

### 1. Apologies

1.1 There were no apologies.

### 2. Declaration of Interests

2.1 No changes.

### 3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were circulated prior to the meeting. These were approved.

Matters arising were all complete

### 4. Responses to submission consultation

The appointed examiner is Andrew Mead. The Examiner's queries have been issued. After these have been responded to there will be a fact check report. Following Dorset Council's consultation there were 10 responses which are available on the Council's website.

SSE did a report on supply on long term power supply in Dorset – they are assuming 255 houses.

It was queried whether the Group need to respond to all Dorset Council's comments and confirmed that this was not necessary. The Examiner asks the questions not the respondents. The Examiner has highlighted that the PC can answer Dorset Council's questions.

### 5. Examiner clarification requests

The Examiners 7 letter was discussed in detail. There were 7 queries on policies and 1 on other issues.

1. Clarification of submission date – date of submission of the revised date – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024.
2. Design Codes – Dorset Council picked up the Design Codes and had some queries and comments about it – why are we not adopting it? This does not have as much weight as a Neighbourhood Plan. Could also adopt the Design Codes separately but because of the way it is written it is better to take out the bits that are relevant and put them in the Neighbourhood Plan. There may be a difference between the two as it may have been adapted and we want the Plan to take preference.
3. Sewerage Treatment Works – want to be more forceful than the standard procedure – need a positive assurance that the sewage treatment work is there before the development takes place. Should be in general conformity with the Local Plan – there isn't a strategic policy that

covers this which the examiner has highlighted as a problem. The policy quoted is the old plan not the current one. There is a judgement that highlights that this is acceptable. Agree with JW comments.

4. Maintaining Local Character – SMNP4 – questioning whether it is geared towards development outside the area of Sturminster Marshall. JW commented that there are some features on the edge that we would not want to ignore e.g. the river corridor. The Group agreed that they did not like the use of the word ‘urban’ in this context. The Inspector is likely to recommend a change in the final version. Agree with JW comments.
5. SMPC7 – Local Wildlife and Habitats – DC don’t favour the use of the word ‘must’ in the policy. Suggest Policy is reorganised. Agree with JW wording.
6. SMPC14 – there was a typo in the policy which has been corrected. Copy Dorset Council into the letter back to the Examiner. The Policy has been simplified but the meaning remains the same. Agree with JW wording.
7. SMPC 18 – Wyatts are commenting that no further sports pitches are needed. Area is not the sole measure – there are further considerations. They have also included the facilities at the school which are not accessible. There was a detailed response to the Regulation 14 consultation on this matter. Wyatt’s concerns were raised and responded to substantively in the consultation statement. Where else would the facilities go? With a minor adjustments – agree with JW wording.
8. Other Comments – JW has not responded to every point but has picked up the one’s worth responding to. SMNP17 – supporting and improving community facilities – want to keep this in. JW to find examples of other adopted policies. Greater reference to Dorset Council documents on sustainability checklist and local list requirements. Would still like to see the detail of the SUDs. JW to expand on SMNP2 response to include reference to public input and local knowledge.

JW to amend and send to Dorset Council and the Parish Clerk for submission on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

Examiner will consider the responses and then issue the fact check report. All to read through for accuracy. Then a final report will be received from the Examiner – that will come to the Parish Council and Dorset Council for publishing. The Group will need to agree and then make the changes. Dorset Council will organise the referendum. Group are allowed to do the publicity before the referendum – during the referendum period the Parish Council has to remain neutral. Could hold a drop in session and advertise. Grant funding would help with this. The referendum will possibly be in August. Typical turnout will be 25-30%.

Group to ask for proof readers to look at spelling and grammar.

## 6. Funding for 2024/25

The grant funding for 2023/24 is all spent. It is unknown when the new funding will be realised so the Parish Council are voting on funding the consultant for the time being.

## 7. Dorset Local Plan

Now being adopted in 2027. Earliest figures will be May 2025. The need to accommodate BCP's need is being abolished. Dorset Council might decide to not meet their needs.

8. [Date of next meeting](#)

TBA

Meeting closed: 9pm