

Sturminster Marshall Neighbourhood Plan

7.30pm, Tuesday 26th February, 2019

Memorial Hall, Sturminster Marshall

Minutes

There were 7 Parish Councillors and 7 Members of the public present. 3 members of the public gave their apologies.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Palmer welcomed everyone to the meeting and handed over to Mr Roger Daniels to talk through the scope of the plan

2. Scope of Plan

It was outlined that the first decision was the area the Neighbourhood Plan should cover. The accepted way to do this is by using the Parish Boundary but this can be changed to, for example, the village of Sturminster Marshall. This was discussed and it was concluded that it would be fairer to the outlying parts of the Parish to include them otherwise any issues they might want to put forward would not be heard. It was suggested that the neighbouring parishes were contacted to see whether they would be carrying out a Neighbourhood Plan.

Action 1: Recommendation to Parish Council to apply for a Neighbourhood Plan area covering the whole of Sturminster Marshall Parish.

The next issue discussed was what the areas of interest the plan would discuss. This is something that early consultation will frame but ideas were put forward for transport, environment, facilities and housing.

Cllr Cade spoke about the planning seminar that she attended with the Parish Clerk and the advice from that was to employ professionals to help with the preparation of the plan. This is likely to cost between £10,000 and £20,000.

It was questioned whether it would be possible to progress with a very focused plan and then adapt it at a later stage. The advice is to concentrate on a small number of very well prepared policies but any changes would have to go through the process again. The plan will have to be reviewed every 5 years and match the timetable to the Local Plan.

Issues around some of the key topics were discussed. The Parish Plan was suggested as a good starting point. The topics in the Parish Plan were housing, transport, amenities and facilities, employment, environment and youth. Infrastructure was also thought to be an important area to cover. In relation to the new housing the group discussed the issue that new development could not be prevented but the NP would help influence what it looks like. The Neighbourhood Plan can

influence; design and materials, green energy, parking, drainage, affordable housing, mix of housing types.

The Steering Group would need to work closely with the planning department and with the professionals employed to help.

Research in the demographics of the parish is an important starting point. Bus services were also raised – including the issue of how many people used bus passes.

Consultation was discussed and the techniques that could be used, including consulting with the school and online surveys. The Parish Council website has no area for Neighbourhood Plan news and this needs to be resolved in order to move forwards.

Action 2: Set up a page on the Parish Council website for the Neighbourhood Plan

[3. Terms of Reference.](#)

The draft terms of reference were circulated to all those on the contact list before the meeting. It was agreed that this was a good starting point and should be recommended for approval at Parish Council.

Action 3: Recommend Terms of Reference for Approval at Parish Council

[4. Steering Group](#)

Cllr Palmer asked for a show of hand of those who would like to be on the Steering Group for the Neighbourhood Plan. Following this it was concluded that the Steering Group would be made up of the following people:

Cllr Helen Fookes

Cllr Hilary Palmer

Cllr Julie Jackson

Cllr Steve Gerry

Cllr Sonia Cade

Cllr Maureen Steel

Mr Roger Daniels

Mr Steve Morris

Mr John Quick

Ms J Scotton

Other members of the public were interested in being involved but did not have the time to commit so they would be able to come to the meetings and contribute they could.

It was recommended that the Steering Group meets once a month and it was suggested that Tuesday was a good evening for meeting. This would need to be before the Parish Council meeting so any recommendations can be approved after the meeting.