



Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Group ('NPG') remote meeting held on Thursday 28th October 2021 at 7:30 pm via Zoom

Members present: Barry Ratcliffe (BR) – Meeting Chair, Adam Hedley (AH) – Project Leader, Sally Hordern (SH), Nicholas Kenealy (NK), Kirk England (KE), Gaye Langham (GL)

In attendance: Alice Turner (AT), Parish Clerk & Steve Blakeman (SB), Chair of the Parish Council.

1. Welcome

AH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

None received.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 30th September 2021 were agreed as an accurate record (GL proposed, SH seconded, all in favour).

4. Declarations of interest

Members were asked to declare an interest if relevant to the discussions. No interests were declared.

5. Public speaking time

No members of the public wished to speak.

6. New Items

6.1 Group Status – to discuss the ability of the group to continue given size and resource constraints following recent resignations.

AH addressed the Group and reported that there were only 6 remaining members and BR as Chair. AH, KE, and David Holwill all have personal commitments outside the NPG which reduces the amount of time that they can contribute. AH said his availability will decrease from December when he will be preparing to move home.

This will leave only 3 members of the NPG able to contribute significantly. AH asked if they were willing and felt able to continue with the Plan? Although he would be leaving the village, AH said he was still willing to offer his expertise and attend meetings going forward.

GL said that she was determined to continue as the Plan was close to being finished and she has had offers of external help.

NK felt it had been a worthwhile project and should continue and raised concerns that, if left uncompleted, the village could end up in a situation similar to Folly Gate. He thought there was a lot of work left to do and was concerned about time scale but was willing to continue to offer help and support.

SH said that she felt the Group needs to complete the Plan.

KE agreed that it would be a shame not to complete the Plan and hoped that in the New Year he would have a bit more time. He felt it was important to have a wide range of people on the NPG. AH asked BR if he was willing to remain as the Chair of the NPG and be the face of the Group and deal with members of the public as needed. BR agreed and responded that he believed it was important that the Group completes the Plan.

AH asked SB if he felt the Parish Council would continue to support the plan. SB said, although he could not speak for the Parish Council, he felt that they would be happy for the Group to continue. AH said that it would be important for the Parish Council to continue to provide financial support and from time-to-time physical help i.e., Cllrs helping at consultation events, leaflet drops etc. The role of external volunteers was discussed. KE felt that, if a large amount of work was undertaken by volunteers, then the public should be aware and it should be scrutinised by the Group at a meeting, rather than it just being accepted as presented. GL confirmed that the volunteers would only be working on documentation that would be available for the Group to discuss and approve.

GL said she hoped to get a large amount of the work to AT by the end of the year so that AT can start working on compiling the Plan & Evidence base etc.

AH thought that Duncan Smith at West Devon Borough Council ('WDBC') should have the policies as soon as possible so they can start work on screening and provide feedback on the wording of the policies. GL questioned if the policies would make sense without supporting evidence. AH felt that WDBC would say 'make sure there is supporting evidence' or comment if policies clashed with JLP or NPPF policies in any way.

AH asked AT for her thoughts on this. AT thought it was a good idea to get the policies to WDBC as soon as they have been approved by the Group so any changes could be incorporated before Regulation 14 consultation, at which point WDBC would be able to comment on the whole Plan, the same as the public.

GL said she would start collating the policies into one document and circulate to the Group before they go off to Duncan Smith for his input.

The Group thanked SB for attending and he left the meeting.

7. Matters arising

7.1 Housing –to discuss progress on the development of site allocation policy.

AH asked NK if he had any further information from WDBC on their previous concerns regarding landscape at Site F. NK responded that he had been in contact with WDBC but has had no response. Duncan Smith has thrown his weight behind the request but, if that doesn't work, NK said he would ask BR to try to get some answers on behalf of the Group. BR reported that, although the Planning Dept. are understaffed, there is no excuse for not responding. BR was happy to chase this if necessary.

AH thanked SH for circulating her first draft of the site allocation policy.

AH asked if the Group wished to focus on Site F in the first instance. NK raised concerns about focusing solely on one site given the possible issues regarding landscape on Site F. NK and KE both felt a 'Plan B' should be considered.

The Group agreed to go away and consider alternative allocation strategies but focus on Site F for this month.

The Group agreed to consider what details need to go into the policy i.e., access to site, which parts of the site are developed, what types of houses (as per AECOM report), what level of affordable housing is required etc.

7.2 Regulation 14 preparation – to discuss Plan status, policies, areas for further work and resource allocation.

GL said that she would need some more maps for the Plan, AT agreed to liaise with GL to try to arrange this.

8. Any other business and future agenda items

SH asked what was going to happen about having a representative from the Parish Council, to be discussed at the next meeting.

AT raised a query regarding the future of the NPG's website and suggested that she start moving things over to the Parish Council site and put it live once everything is transferred. The Group was happy with this.

9. Date of next meeting

Thursday 25 November 2021, 7:30pm via Zoom.

IF YOU ARE READING THESE MINUTES AND INTERESTED IN JOINING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP, OR MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROUP'S WORK, THEN PLEASE CONTACT ADAM HEDLEY ON 851648