



SHERFIELD ON LODDON PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Minutes of PSCNP meeting held on 16th July 2014

Present – John Darker (Acting Chairman), Bruce Batting, Bryan Jenkins, Natalie Larner, Kym Greener and Peter Hayes (Minutes).

Apologies: Alan Ball.

Two members of the public attended as observers.

1. **Introductions**

BB requested that JD act as Chairman for this meeting. JD said that the meeting's purpose was to explore where we've got to and discuss how to move forward.

2. **Agree terms of reference (ToR) for the PSCNP**

BJ referred to the original draft of the ToR dated May 2014. He said that the requirements for members were too prescriptive and assume a knowledge of the NP process that none of us yet possesses. He had produced a revised draft for this meeting which had removed specific PSCNP actions that the consultants can provide as we seek their expert guidance. A discussion considered clarification of the Committee's responsibility and its status in respect of the PC Planning Committee. There was a perception that the PC will control the NP down to the last detail and make all the decisions – but with less expertise than the PSCNP.

One view was that the non-PC members on the PSCNP don't have equal status to PC members; they have put in an enormous amount of work which has to be properly valued. BB acknowledged this and expressed his appreciation for their efforts, along with a reassurance that the PC would not ride rough-shod over proposals put forward by the PSCNP. He added that non-PC members of the Sub-Committee have an advantage when voting on proposals: this is because the Chairman only has a casting vote in the event of a tied vote. Overall it was agreed that the Sub-Committee has to represent the whole parish.

Action: With two additional amendments from the original draft, BJ's version was accepted and will be sent out with the Minutes. Draft Minutes will, in future, be sent to all members (not just to the Chairman) for comment on points of fact.

3. **Broadening membership of the PSCNP**

JD observed that there was no representative from Taylor's Farm which is still part of the parish. Two possible members are ruled out as they do not hold UK voting status and cannot vote in the Referendum. Even if the governance review takes TF out of the Sherfield designated area TF will still have a made an appropriate contribution to the current Plan.

Action: AB will approach James Read re advertising the vacancy on the TF Facebook page. NL offered to draft a wording for the LVL (August edition) – this has now been done and accepted. Interested people are asked to apply via email to PH by the end of August.

4. **Summary report of the Questionnaire**



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BJ said that he had produced a 4-page summary with charts and snappy conclusions at the end of Questions 1-8. The conclusion to Q9 is 'With so many separate comments there is no simple conclusion'. There was some discussion about whether a short summary of the questions with their conclusions should be offered for those who did not want to take in the whole detail. BB also raised the issue of what to draw into the NP from the Questionnaire results and what the PC might need from them.

Actions: a) The document will be printed as 5 pages with the additional one containing the principal conclusions. It will be distributed door to door in the village by volunteers; NL and KG will facilitate this process. TF can decide on its own dissemination eg through a box in the Community Centre. BB will speak to James Read about this. Completion is aimed at the end of August. **b)** The full results – currently on the web in 3 separate files – will be printed and put into folders to be accessed via village locations such as House 28; the Village Hall; the pubs and SP Community Centre. About 10 copies will be produced – this action is for September.

5. **Work plan for the consultants**

PH referred to a paper he had produced on suggestions for consultants' task which showed that their work could be carried out without unnecessary overlap. Broadly, Brian Whiteley (PAE) was offering training and advice and the two consultants funded through Locality were leading or supporting particular tasks in the project plan.

There was discussion of site-based and policy-led plans (either approach would be acceptable as previously confirmed by Brian Whiteley, PAE). Arguments against site-based were that they could be the cause of tensions in the parish and a sensitive approach was required; site-based might encourage developers to put in planning applications as sites had already been identified. Policy-led would mean that the NP could control applications by saying what we would like and what we wouldn't like. Any planning applications would need to be judged by policies laid down in the Plan.

The Committee agreed that the Plan would be policy led: site assessments would not be required.

Actions: a) PH to invite BW to a meeting on 24/7 or 7/8 to run a workshop on policy writing – this is confirmed as 7th August. **b)** PH to arrange a meeting with BDBC to discuss the governance review; the 'Triangle' proposed development; issues in relation to the Thames Valley Basin. **c)** PH to ask SJ to plan/facilitate further consultations including involving young people and the hardest to reach in the community.

6. **Signing consultants' contracts**

PH reminded that the contracts for AM and SJ remained to be signed off.

Action: BJ took the contracts away for further consideration.

7. **AOB: Postponing the Neighbourhood Plan**

JD said that the Committee needed to take a view on possible postponement of the NP pending the governance review (spring 2015). The Committee was unanimous in support of continuing with the plan on the grounds that:

- A policy led Plan would reduce local tension



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- It would be embarrassing to the PC and the Sub-Committee to withdraw at this stage
- Grant money spent and unspent would need to be returned
- A NP provides protection against unwanted developer activity.

8. Dates of future meetings

24th July (tbc); 7th August (confirmed). All meetings in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.
Minutes of the last meeting (16th June) will be approved at the next meeting.