

Minutes of Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Meeting – Monday 9th December 2019 held at Ixworth Village Hall

Present –Debra Reay (Chair), Tessa Stonehouse (Vice-Chair), Richard Courtnell, Penny Dinwiddy, Nick Laughton (PC), Stephen Mann (VH), Roger Spiller.

In Attendance – Ben Lord (PC Chair), Steve Wilson (NP Clerk)

1. Introductions/Apologies for Absence

The Clerk had received apologies from Sarah Pentony. Sophia Wilson had withdrawn from the Group. Ben Lord was in attendance in order to correct some misunderstandings of PC procedures and the activities of certain PC members.

The Chair welcomed Ben Lord but noted that the meeting was dealing with a very full agenda. As his attendance had been unexpected, only a limited amount of time could be offered to him within the meeting. She suggested that any outstanding business on his part might best be dealt with thereafter.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 12 November 2019 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising

Pigeon Developments presentations. There had been no revised date given for a public presentation by Pigeon Developments. Pigeon had asked to present privately to the PC before their meeting on 11 December.

4. Update from Parish Council

The PC had accepted the draft list of Plan policies at their November meeting. It had become apparent, however, that there was some degree of misunderstanding among some PC members as to exactly how a NP was generated and what it could deliver. The Chair had requested a 10-minute slot at the PC's meeting on 11 December to give a presentation which would address these issues. Ben Lord indicated that there would not be sufficient time at their meeting for the Chair's presentation.

5. Input from Public

One member of the public had contacted the Group via social media seeking an update on the Pigeon presentation; Penny had replied on behalf of the Group.

6. Chair's Report

The Chair distributed a handout to the Group outlining the need for, and operation of, a Register of Interests for Group members. She read the contents as a reminder to Group members. The document would be emailed to Group members not in attendance.

Action: Clerk

The Chair and Vice-Chair had held a meeting with C Cllr Spicer and a senior Planning Officer from Suffolk County Council. The Vice-Chair and Roger had met with planning policy staff from West Suffolk Council. Both meetings had been highly encouraging and both bodies had expressed pleasant surprise at the rate of progress of the Plan. Close contact would be maintained with both councils, especially as the final draft approached, in order for potential problems to be identified at an early stage. The early production of a final draft would be very helpful in this regard.

The Chair was in the process of arranging a personal meeting with West Suffolk Councillor John Griffiths.

The Chair delivered the presentation which she had prepared for the PC meeting. This was a timely reminder to the Group of the aims and progress of the Plan. A supporting document had been created by the West Suffolk Planning Department summarising the guidelines for the creation of a NP and the timetable for approval.

There then ensued a somewhat bad tempered debate between Ben Lord and Group members over the work of the NPWG, the PC's reaction to it and perceived shortcomings on both sides. As exchanges became more heated it was agreed to adjourn the meeting until Tuesday 7 January 2020 at 7pm.

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Signed, NP Chair – Debra Reay

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Date