

## **Minutes of Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Meeting – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 held at Ixworth Village Hall**

**Present** –Debra Reay (Chair), Tessa Stonehouse (Vice-Chair), Nick Laughton (PC), Roger Spiller, Penny Dinwiddy, Saran Pentony, Stephen Mann, Jan Boyd and Neil Phillips

**In Attendance** – Mandy Adlington (PC Clerk)

### **1. Introductions/Apologies for Absence**

The Chair reported to the group that unfortunately Richard Courtnell has resigned from the group. The Chair thanked Richard for his support and welcomed Jan Boyd and Neil Philips to the meeting.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

It was also agreed the Chair sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

### **3. Matters Arising**

**Housing Needs Survey** – The final report with all the corrections had now been received from Community Action Suffolk. Thanks to Tessa and Steve for the hard work. The Parish council would now take this forward and report back to the group. Mandy and Nick informed the group that they had been charged to arrange a meeting with CAS and the West Suffolk Housing Officer.

**Action Mandy & Nick**

**Recruitment** – Mandy stated the Parish Council would discuss the Clerk position further at the PC meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Once the PC had decided what to do, which would hopefully advertise quickly for a new clerk, Mandy would let Debra know. Debra and the group hoped someone would be in by April. It was suggested that the job description may need to be altered slightly to reflect that the plan was quite a way along and the new clerk would be communicating with the group, West Suffolk and collating responses from various consultations.

**Action Mandy & Nick (via the PC)**

**Self-Build** – The option of self-build on the various site allocations has been suggested to the various developers whose site were favoured in the consultation. Developers were going to contact the group with their views. Roger again stated that there is a register for interested parties in self build and there are interests registered for the Parish.

### **4. Update from Parish Council**

The Clerk and Nick Laughton stated that as already discussed, issues outstanding were a NP Clerk, the housing needs study and a settlement boundary for Ixworth Thorpe. The Clerk said the PC had resolved to contact West Suffolk planners to arrange a meeting to discuss the settlement boundary in Ixworth Thorpe.

## **5. Input from Public**

Mike Jones, the youth leader was unable to attend to update the group due to illness. Stephen informed the group that the Free School had finally got the lease back from Suffolk County Council, but they were now intending to use this space for special needs teaching. Mike has concerns about whether this is a workable mix with the youth club and Stephen reported that a more suitable space may be required for the future.

## **6. Chair's Report**

Debra informed the group that she was still trying to arrange a meeting with D Cllr Joh Griffiths to update him on the progress of the plan. It may be an option to invite someone from the PC to attend also. Debra would liaise with Mandy and Nick.

**Action - Debra**

## **7. Action Following Public Consultation held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**Green Spaces** – Debra had sent Chris a write up on each green space that the group would like included in the plan so as to protect them from development. Stephen wished to let the group know that the playing fields may not necessarily need protecting within the plan as it is already a protected for recreational use under the terms of its Charitable Trust agreement which is governed by The Charity Commission. A discussion about various possibilities for uses of the playing fields for recreation as designated by the Charitable Trust was discussed. It was decided to consult with Chris on the difference between a designated green space within the plan, and the protections already in place and whether there is value in a green space designation in this instance.

**Action - Debra**

**Site Allocations** – The developers whose site allocations had been recommended by the NPWG from evidence at the drop in session, had been contacted to seek additional information to assist in further development of the written information in the plan. The partners in the Cross developments, which covers more than one site, requested a meeting to discuss further. The Chair stated the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020 had been interesting. The total numbers for suggested housing on the Langridge site was considerably more than had been displayed at the drop in session in January. Nick Cross suggested that looking at the three sites together, rather than as separate developments, may assist the community in looking at the opportunities as a whole including additional community benefits that may accrue. The developers would come back to the NPWG with further ideas. It was recognised that a further consultation will be needed to allow residents to consider new the emerging proposals.

Issues pertaining to the protracted delays in delivery of the Persimmon and Bi Pass Farms were commented on. Questions on the sequencing of community benefits such as the new Primary School need to be explored further with West Suffolk in order to ascertain whether this could delay new development coming forward. It was recognised that this conversation will require a fully joined up approach with the Parish Council.

**8. Review of Timetable & Actions**

A discussion took place on the next steps over the next couple of months. A meeting had been arranged for members of the group to meet with West Suffolk Planners on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 as recommended by the consultant.

A further meeting will be arranged to look at more detail on the Dairy Farm, Dairy Farm Buildings and Langridge 27<sup>th</sup> March to discuss their new suggested options. All members of the Working Group are welcome to attend. The Chair stated she would contact to arrange for 2pm on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**Action - Debra**

**Revised Timetable;**

- 11/03/20** Report to PC
- 18/03/20** Meeting with West Suffolk – Nick, Roger, Tessa and Chris to attend
- 21/03/2020** Magazine deadline
- 27/03/2020** Developer meeting
- 31/03/2020** NPWG Meeting – Set date for next public meeting (18.04.20 or 25.04.2020)

Dates above may alter as discussions and meetings with developers are arranged and the group agree on a date that they can run the drop in session. It was agreed to stay with tried and tested format of the drop in session.

**9. Any Other Business**

Tessa asked the question – ‘Who makes or sees things actually happen that are in the completed and adopted plan?’ Is this a question for West Suffolk?

It was agreed the next meeting will be held on 31<sup>st</sup> March at 7pm in Ixworth Village Hall Bar Area.

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**Signed, NP Chair – Debra Reay**

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**Date**