

# **Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council**

## **Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting held at Methodist Church Hall, Mortimer on Tuesday 20 May 2025 19:30**

### **Attendees**

Joanne Emberson-Wines – Meeting Chair (JW); Tennant Barber (TB); Graham Bridgman (GB); Nick Carter (NC); Mark Hillyer (MH); Neil Kiley (NK); Amanda Marsden (AM) Doug Overett (DO); Clare Stafford (CS); Sallyann Taylor (ST – Minute Taker)

#JW welcomed MH & CS who were co-opted onto the Steering Group at the SMPC Annual Meeting on 15 May.

### **# Re-election of Chair Post SMPC Annual General Meeting**

GB proposed JW be elected chair and NK seconded. JW was elected unopposed

### **1. Apologies**

Bob Coe (BC), Jayne Todd (JT)

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

TB mentioned that as we are going to discuss the flood risk policy he declared he was flooded in 2007. JW declared she works for the Environment Agency and has worked on flood policy and planning.

### **3. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of 15 April 2025 were agreed with no amendments.

### **4. NDP - Reserved Land**

DO reported that we are still waiting on the planning application for the reserved land.

### **5. Neighbourhood plan**

#### **AECOM/Locality**

TB updated the new members of the SG on the history of AECOM/Locality.

**Action: BC**

### **6. Discuss AECOM's final reports**

Report from TB & BC: -

1. SG comments on the draft EBPB and Design Codes reports were submitted to AECOM on 16 April.
2. The final HNA report has been signed off by Locality and circulated to the SG.
3. The final EBPB report has been signed off by Locality and circulated to the SG.

The updated Design Codes report has been received and circulated to the SG, but awaits final sign-off by Locality

We now need to decide how we now use each of these reports to develop our new NP policies/carry over existing NDP policies.

**Action: BC & TB**

## **7. Review NP policies**

TB mentioned that in the policies report it says that we should reduce the number of policies to critical ones. JW mentioned we need to provide evidence for the additional policies we would like to have in the Neighbourhood Plan (NP), and we should not repeat what is already in the National and Local Plan. We need to decide what is unique to Mortimer.

We have also been told our public consultation from 2020 is dated. Once we decide on our policies we will consult with the Community.

NC said we should also use the design codes to define housing density for Mortimer. TB agreed and said we will need to provide evidence.

GB suggested that we look at other parishes like Silchester, who have used AECOM and see how they used the AECOM reports to finalise their NP.

TB said we need to look at each of our policies and decide what we take on board from the AECOM recommendations. TB has already started this process. The flooding, lighting and community energy and Foudry brook policies are done. We need to review the others and decide whether we have enough evidence to keep them. It is quite work intensive and we need to find a way to divide the work. TB will list all the policies and people can volunteer to work on them.

TB shared the Flood Risk policy which had been generated by SUDS experts. It was agreed it was a great piece of evidence to support our flood policy in the NP.

It was agreed we need to meet with WBC to discuss how we best develop 'must' policies and 'should' policies to be deliverable and effective.

**Actions: TB & BC**

## **8. AOB**

TB suggested moving forward that we need to invite the Community to an informal consultation to get some feedback. DO and CS agreed to take this as an action point.

ST to setup a meeting with West Berkshire Council. JW, BC and TB to attend.

**Actions: DO, CS, ST**

## **Close**

Meeting ended 21:00

Next meeting 17.06.2025 at 19:30 at Methodist Church Hall, Mortimer