

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting held at Methodist Church Hall, Mortimer on Tuesday 02 September 2025 19:30

Attendees

Doug Overett – Meeting Chair (DO); Tennant Barber (TB); Bob Coe (BC); Neil Kiley (NK); Clare Stafford; Jayne Todd (JT); Sallyann Taylor (ST – Minute Taker)

1. Apologies

Joanne Emberson-Wines (JW); Graham Bridgman (GB); Nick Carter (NC); Mark Hillyer (MH).

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of 19 August 2025 were agreed with no amendments.

4. NP Policies – Agree and signoff

The following NP policies were agreed: -

- Climate Change and Resilience – TB to add some additional wording relating to temperature increases
- Natural Environment – TB to add some new wording for the Irreplaceable habitats
- Community Energy
- Employment, Facilities and Services
- Design Code policy

JT will put them into a standard template, and they will go to Full Council on 11 September for approval before the informal public consultation in October.

BC reported that there is no need for a separate Highways and Transport policy in the NP as the policies are well covered in the West Berkshire (WB) Local Plan. The Steering Group agreed there was no need. However, we will refer to the WB Local Plan policies for Transport and Highways in the main narrative of the NP and at the public consultation.

For the informal public consultation there will be bullet point versions of the policies, and we will include Design code principles.

Actions: TB, NK & JT

5. AOB

DO reported that he has been looking at venues for the informal public consultation. Possible dates are the weekend of 11-12 October and 18-19 October and a mid-week date.

NK is in the process of talking to planning consultants to help the Steering Group decide whether to include possible housing sites in the new Neighbourhood Plan. Depending on timings of the response

the SG would include possible future sites in the informal consultation in October. TB agreed to draft questions for the planning consultant regarding whether HELAA sites should be added to the NP.

TB raised a question whether we have followed the advice in the AECOM HNA. After a discussion TB to update the design code principles and include the emphasis on 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom houses with a reference to bungalows as a principle in line with HNA numbers and the expressed wish of the community identifying we have listened. TB also to add a reference to 2 storeys in the design principles.

Actions: DO, NK & TB

Close

Meeting ended 21:25

Next meeting 16.09.2025 at 19:30 at Methodist Church Hall, Mortimer