

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting held at Methodist Church Hall, Mortimer on Tuesday 16 September 2025 19:30

Attendees

Joanne Emberson-Wines – Meeting Chair (JW); Tennant Barber (TB); Graham Bridgman (GB); Bob Coe (BC); Neil Kiley (NK); Doug Overett; Jayne Todd (JT); Sallyann Taylor (ST – Minute Taker)

#GB updated the Steering Group (SG) on the recent changes to Steering Groups policies at the Full Council meeting on 11 September. The main change to note is in the Scheme of Delegation where 'Delegated Matters' has been changed to 'Assigned Matters' for SGs. Any request to act (including financial) is now a matter for the Clerk to decide. ST to distribute Scheme of Delegation, Code of Conduct and Policy Guidance and Glossary.

Action: ST

1. Apologies

Nick Carter (NC)

#JW reported that Clare Stafford and Mark Hillyer had resigned. ST to report to Council.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of 2 September 2025 were agreed with no amendments.

4. NDP and Reserved Land

DO reported there were no new updates, and we are still waiting for the Planning Application.

5. Public Consultation update

DO reported the following:

- Hoping to secure St John's school hall for 11, 12, 15, 18 & 19 October.
- Once St John's School is secured DO will start promoting the event
- A volunteer schedule has been created and slots allocated
- Bullet point policy posters will be created and be on display. The full policies will be available.
- JT to collate FAQs

It was agreed to mention the four HELAA sites at the informal public consultation. As part of the HNA we have a shortfall of 38 houses. Those houses should be targeted at starters and downsizers. Although we are currently not required to take on new houses it would be better to be prepared should there be a request for further housing in the future. NK reported that he had not heard back from the planning consultant yet. NK will also try to contact Bluestone.

We should also make the public aware at the public consultation that the 350 houses proposed by Basingstoke and Deane in their Local Plan are on our radar.

Actions: DO, JT

6. Neighbourhood Plan updates

The NP policies were taken to SMPC Full Council on 11 September, and the content was approved for use at the informal public consultations in October 2025.

7. AOB

It was agreed to create a draft response to Basingstoke & Deane and West Berkshire Council to propose an SMPC objection to the proposal to build 350 homes by Mortimer West End Farm. The draft response will be taken to the Planning and Highways meeting on 18 September.

Actions: JW, TB, GB

Close

Meeting ended 21:20

Next meeting 21.10.2025 at 19:30 at Methodist Church Hall, Mortimer.