

Pirton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8 June 2015 in Pirton School Hall

Members in attendance:

Diane Burleigh (Chair); Gil Burleigh; Nick Parkin; Lorna Sexton; Tom Gammell; Ann Webb; Carol-Anne McConnalogue and Jonty Wild

Public participation: no members of the public were present. Mrs Diane Bailey, Chair of the Pirton Parish Council, attended as an Observer. Mrs Clare Skeels of NHDC Planning Department attended to assist as necessary.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Jill Stuart

2. Declarations of interest

No declarations were made

3. Meeting with Cllr Strong/Councillor Levett

DB confirmed that she had had an email exchange with Cllr Strong and Cllr Barnard, thus establishing email dialogue, following comments made at the last PPC meeting. TG had heard nothing further from David Levett. It was confirmed by CS that Mr Levett is still the Council member responsible for the Local Plan. It was agreed that further efforts should be made to meet with Councillors, DB to make clear that the PNPSG are willing to attend a meeting anywhere at their convenience.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 11 May 2015

These were approved unanimously after a proposal by NP seconded by GB.

5. Matters arising and Actions Taken

DB reported to the meeting that Becky Lewis had been in touch; the data inputting was nearly complete and she hoped to have the draft results with DB by the end of the week. She read out the email which gave a flavour of the main issues of importance to young people which included a skateboard pipe and a "Welcome to Pirton" sign.

6. Forward Planning Items including revised action plan for discussion

There were no forward planning items not elsewhere on the agenda.

7. Discussion on issues raised by Community members

DB reminded the meeting that she had circulated emails received from two members of the Pirton community who raised questions on the questionnaire. Becky Lewis had provided a full response. JW explained that he had had extensive correspondence with the same individuals on the same topic. NP suggested that they be invited to the next meeting so the PNPSG could hear directly from them, and they from the PNPSG. There was unanimous agreement. JW will reply and invite them to the next meeting.

8. Liaison with PPC/NHDC/other bodies

The meeting applauded the improved liaison with the PPC now with 4 Parish Councillors on the PNPSG. Although “best practice” would indicate that 4 is too many, the meeting felt this was acceptable given that all bar 1 were serving PNPSG members before joining the PPC.

DB thanked Clare Skeels for her advice and practical assistance and for enabling the PNPSG to work a little more closely with the NHDC.

8. Working Group Reports

- a. *Communication and Website*: Once again JW asked the meeting to think about what else/ new items should go on to the website. He has also asked AW to pass interesting items from Facebook to go on the site. He is short of a few of the earlier minutes; he and TG will sort this. Carol-Anne is working on the PPC's next newsletter and she will point out the website in the newsletter.
- b. *Monitoring Report on Facebook* : AW reported no problems. MG said the site is now gathering momentum. There are now nearly 200 registered users. AW wants to get in touch with other local Pirton Parish Facebook users and share with them. She is also liaising with Rodney Marshall to link through to the PPC Facebook page. MG reported that there is still considerable misunderstanding about the NP and the Local Plan, this is plain from comments made.
- c. *Evidence Base*: DB will email the members to arrange a meeting
- d. *Public consultation*: There was considerable discussion. It was agreed that LS will book a stall at the Summer Fair on the Bury. C-AM booked the afternoon of the 19 July at the village hall for a public consultation; DB will

book a weekday evening at the village hall too. TG will provide boards for hanging information. DB and GB will provide photographs and maps.

At the Summer Fair, consultation will be on the questionnaire outcomes, the Key Themes and Objectives which AW will prepare. Once again, post it notes will be available for comments to be written on. There will be a notice of invitation to the “open afternoon/evening”. NP, LS and MG will be able to cover the Summer Fair; NP, LS, AW and JW volunteered to take on the preparation work. DB will prepare the policies for comment. The same items will be displayed at the village hall meetings. DB will do a presentation at each village hall event, to put the work in the context of Government Policy and the Law. At the village hall events, there will be sheets for ranking agreement with the objectives, policies etc.

- e. **Community Assets:** JW will start work on further community assets to discuss with Steve Smith.
- f. *Land Ownership etc:* MG referred to the latest letter from Gladman to the PPC in which they offered to discuss matters that could be the subject of a Section 106 agreement to the value of £140,000. He thought that this should be explored in the event that the NHDC should grant planning permission. The meeting agreed that this was not a matter for the PNPSG, but for the PPC. There followed a discussion about landowners generally. It was agreed that DB should write to the owners of Priors Hill site and the Holwell Turn site to remind them of the work on the NP and to send them a copy of the questionnaire results. It was further acknowledged that, given that these two sites had been identified by the NHDC as sites suitable for development, it was not necessary for the PNPSG to search for extra or alternative sites. Nor is the PNPSG obliged to contact or speak with other landowners in these circumstances.
- g. *Environment and Heritage:* Nothing further to report
- h. *Village Design and Parish Plan:* Nothing to report
- i. *Production of Neighbourhood Plan:* JW offered to start drafting a basic layout for the NP, ready for text to be dropped in. His offer was readily accepted. DB reported that work on the policies was going well, with a considerable number drafted; and on the assistance being received from a colleague of Rachel Hoggars particularly on design policies.

9. Finance Report

TG reported that the application for a grant from Locality had been refused. No reason was given, but we have been advised to work through our Locality facilitator. TG advised that we should identify exactly what planning and legal advice is required/will be required so that estimates can be given and a fresh application made.

10. Latest updates on Local Plan etc.

CS reported that there had been over 18,000 responses to the draft Local Plan. NHDC intends to publish all of them, but it is unlikely that they will be on the NHC website as the data is just too massive for the site. The plan is to draft the next version of the Local Plan by the end of the year, with consultation in 2016. Timetabling has still to be discussed with the portfolio holder. A paper on the response to the consultation on community consultation will go to Cabinet in July. There had been only 13 responses. She had nothing to report on East of Luton matters; CS reminded the meeting that the list of designated Neighbourhood Plan areas is on the NHDC website. Along with Pirton, Ashwell, St Ippolyts and Barley/Nuthampstead are making progress.

11. Date and time of Next Meeting

6 July at 8pm at the village hall.

12. AOB:

Nothing was raised.