

Minutes of the Meeting of the Pirton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (SG) held on the 26 March 2018 at the Village Hall, Pirton.

Members in Attendance: Diane Burleigh (Chair), Jonty Wild (Deputy Chair), Gil Burleigh, Ann Webb, Nick Parkin.

There were no other attendees.

No declarations of Interest were made.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Lorna Sexton; Tom Gammell

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 29 January 2018

Having identified and noted three typos, the Minutes were agreed unanimously.

3. Matters Arising and Actions Taken

The meeting went through all of the Actions and agreed they had be completed.

The Referendum Result was noted for the Minutes: on a 56.7% turnout, 520 were in favour of the proposal, 18 against and 1 spoilt vote. There was overwhelming support for the Pirton Neighbourhood Plan.

4. Action Post Referendum:

There was considerable discussion about when the NP will be “made” or “adopted” by the NHDC, and its status in the meanwhile. DB will contact Clare Skeels for clarification.

It was agreed:

- i. DB will compare the updated NP she and JW have done with the work done by TG and AW to ensure they agree which will mean they are correct. She will arrange to meet with AW to go through the Plans. DB to contact Maps at NHDC for the last amendment to the Priors Hill Scheduled Area. GB will review the Character Assessment with particular attention to plans and maps for which he will need JW’s assistance.
- ii. SG should confirm the referendum and making of the Plan to the Statutory Bodies contacted at Reg. 14. DB to check with TG that he has informed officially our MP and District Councillors, all of whom should be sent a final version in due course. A note on the legal effect of the NP post referendum should accompany this distribution to all contacts.
- iii. DB will draft a further press release. If not effective, a letter will be sent to the Comet on “adoption” of the Plan. It is the NHDC responsibility to have the up to date NP on their website. A copy will be sent to the Planning department. Others will go on Facebook sites and Websites. Thought needs to be given to the number of Hard Copies Printed, and this should

include copies for the village to be placed for the community's information.
One will be placed in Hitchin Library.

5. **Although not known at the time, the formal decision to adopt will be taken with delegated authority by David Levett Portfolio Holder for Planning, and Ian Featherstone, Head of Planning. On adoption, DB will pursue the issue of the NHDC recognising the Character Assessment as Supplementary Planning Guidance

6. Planning Applications:

Current: DB is writing responses to applications from the SG, focussing on NP policies. It was agreed these should be circulated before submission, and a.n. other's name attached.

Future: It was agreed that a discussion with the PPC was needed. The SG saw merit in working alongside the PPC Planning WG, to give views on the application of NP policies, conduct the monitoring for the PPC and to have contact with the NHDC. DB will prepare a paper for the PPC on future relationship.

7. AOB

- i. Summer Fair – contact from Organisers.
The SG thought taking a stall in the summer could be an interesting way of updating the community and keeping them involved. DB to get back to LS on this, and request a little more time to think about it.
- ii. AW shared concern about the possible felling of trees in a property in Royal Oak Lane, and JW shared his similar concern regarding a tree in Walnut Tree Road. There was a discussion on the importance of trees highlighted in the NP.
- iii. The meeting confirmed that it would like TG and JW to do some work on identifying individual trees and groups of trees that could be put forward for Tree Preservation Orders.

8. **Date of Next Meeting:** To be agreed