

**MINUTES of the Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Committee of
North Leigh Parish Council (NLPC) held on
Monday 4th March 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Turner Hall**

Committee Members Present:

Martin Bowsher - MB
Paul Evans – PE
Rob Gunn - RG
David Harris – DH
Steve Legg – SL (Secretary)
Suzanne Millar - SM
Kevin Swann (Vice Chair) - KS
Sherard Veasey (Chair) - SV
Judith Wardle - JW
Adrian Watts – AW

Others in Attendance

None.

NP115: Apologies for absence

None.

NP116: Declarations of Interest

None.

NP 117: New Committee member

David Harris has offered to assist and was co-opted onto the committee.

NP118: Review Actions and Approve Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by the committee.

The actions from the last meeting had been carried out.

NP119: Review SWOT Analysis produced at last meeting

AW listed a number of comments on the SWOT analysis document produced by Tom McCulloch. It was decided to defer progressing this document until after the Questionnaire has been finalised since there is a strong relationship between the documents.

JW suggested that it would be useful to commission the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) to carry out a Data Search of the Protected, Notable and Invasive Species and Statutory and Non-Statutory Protected Sites of the parish. This could be used in the SWOT document and elsewhere in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council gets a 50% discount on TVERC charges, so the Committee will need the Parish Council to request and pay for the TVERC report. A report specially tailored to Neighbourhood Plans costs £75 plus VAT.

ACTION: KS to ask the PC to consider this.

NP120: Review Feedback from the Public Meeting

145 members of the public came to the Public Meeting on 17th February.

Thanks were extended to:

SM for transcribing and collating a large number of post-its filled out on the day.

PE (and wife Rosie) for transcribing and collating a large number of handwritten feedback sheets filled out on the day.

KS for collating the 25 email responses and for combining all the above sets of information into a single spreadsheet.

The turnout seems low for a parish of over 2,000 residents, despite extensive publicity, but it was felt that the numbers were higher than they might have been due to recent announcements concerning the Call for Sites for the 2041 West Oxfordshire Local Plan.

NP121: Review of Draft Questionnaire provided by CFO.

There was a discussion of how to present questions concerning housing development (Q3,4 & 9) in view of the strong consensus among residents that there should be no further developments in the village, given the disproportionately large amount in recent years. Perhaps these sections can be abbreviated and prefaced by a caveat making the views of the Parish Council and overwhelming majority of residents clear?

Some district councils have introduced a restriction in some areas that new housing can be sold only to residents with a local connection. This is not the case in West Oxfordshire, and was generally felt to be problematic due to the difficulty of getting a mortgage where such restrictions apply. However, unless such a restriction exists, it is meaningless to ask residents if they would approve of new housing in order to provide homes for their family members, since this is otherwise not enforceable.

If we omit any questions about new development, then it might appear that through silence we were inviting more. If the questions are framed in such a way as to emphasise that the parish would have no future housing development, then perhaps the Inspector or District Council would reject the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was decided to consult Tom McCulloch for his advice.

ACTION: TM

KS offered to go through the Public Meeting feedback and check that every issue that was raised is reflected in some way within the questionnaire.

ACTION: KS

It was also noted that the questionnaire the committee produced in July 2023 (*NLNP Questionnaire Word Doc v1.02*) should be checked against the latest draft questionnaire from CFO. KS emailed a copy to all committee members for reference. Some sections of the 2023 questionnaire contain more specific details about the parish that should be brought forward into the current draft, such as landscape views, green spaces, etc. However, we must try to limit the size of the questionnaire – the CFO draft (*North Leigh NP - draft survey questions 20.2.24*) runs to 16 pages, which seems too long.

It was agreed to allocate the draft questions to small groups to update the draft in the light of discussion. The committee will discuss the updated draft questionnaire collectively at the next meeting.

- Q3,4 & 9 – SV & DH
- Q5 – JW & MB
- Q6, 7, 8 & 2 – AW & KS (& PE when available)

ACTION: those above

The Parish Council website and Facebook page information on the Neighbourhood Plan is out of date. KS will arrange for these to be updated and MB will repost the updated PC Facebook page to the NL Community page when it has been published.

ACTION: KS, MB

NP114: Date of next meetings:

Thursday 21st March, 6 p.m. in The Turner Hall.

Meeting closed at 19:40.