

**DRAFT MINUTES of a Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Committee of
North Leigh Parish Council (NLPC) held on
Monday 28th April 2025 at 6:00 pm in the Turner Hall**

Committee Members Present:

Paul Evans - PE
David Harris - DH
Steve Legg (Secretary) – SL
Suzanne Millar – SM
David Painter - DP
Judith Wardle – JW
Adrian Watts – AW
Sherard Veasey (Chair) – SV

NP253. Apologies for absence

Malcolm Shead (PC) - MS

NP254. Declarations of Interest

None.

NP255. Public Forum

Not applicable.

NP256. To Consider Actions of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 10th March recorded the following actions:

NP247 – JW – to investigate CFO recommendations concerning wildlife and treescape evidence – Done.

TVERC reports have already been purchased.

Oxfordshire Treescape Project – a map can be found at [this address](#). The map can be zoomed to North Leigh and a menu allows various layers of data to be turned on, such as hedges and existing woodland.

ACTION: JW will investigate further.

NP247 / RS2 – JW – the person who does not wish her land to go for development is Ingela Cleblad-Raw of

“The Ridings”, Church Road.

SV – to email comments on draft policies to CFO –

ACTION: SV – continues.

NP257. Consider timeline for drafting policies proposed by CFO

CFO has emailed a proposed timeline for drafting and commenting on the draft policies. CFO would complete drafting of all policies by 23rd May, and the committee would complete their review and send comments back to CFO by 17th June. There would be a ½ day policy review meeting in the week of 23rd June and CFO would then finalise the policies in time for the public meeting on Friday 11th July.

- The committee felt that the timescale is tight, but that we must move quickly to be ready for the 11th July.
- The committee would prefer an evening meeting, and suggests that two online evening meetings of 2 hours each would be more flexible. The dates suggested are 23th and 25th June, with the 27th June as a fallback date if CFO cannot meet on one of the suggested dates. The online meetings would run from 6 to 8 p.m.

ACTION – SV to discuss with CFO.

NP258. Consider the Biodiversity Evidence required

Discussed under NP256 above.

NP259. To consider the Key Views

The committee discussed the key views in a general manner, and noted that due to the topography of the parish we are lucky to have numerous exceptional views. A detailed discussion of this item was deferred to the next meeting.

NP260. To consider the Local Green Spaces & the Cotswold Toolkit

SV distributed three handouts (attached to these minutes).

- A print of the NPPF paragraphs relating to Local Green Spaces
- A revised “Character of the Parish”, listing the key assets of the parish under various headings. This provides a starting point for the consideration of local green spaces.
- A list of suggested local green spaces, with accompanying map.

The committee reviewed the suggested list of Local Green Spaces in the context of the NPPF guidance and the Cotswold Toolkit. The committee was in favour of including all of them in the North Leigh Neighbourhood Plan, with the following caveats:

- Bridewell Organic Gardens – may not qualify on the grounds that it is a privately run therapeutic facility which is only open to the public on a number of occasions during the year.

- Grims Ditch – the entire length may be too extensive. If we designate only the concealed portion south of Common Farm, it may turn out that the current archaeological investigations being carried out there may result in its gaining protection on those grounds.
- St Mary's Churchyard – yes, but should also add St Peter's churchyard in Wilcote.
- North Leigh Roman villa – site already protected by English Heritage / Historic England.
- Shakenoak Roman Villa – yes, but note site is not visible at surface level.
- Cuckamus Green – it is registered as common land so needs no further protection.
- Green areas in Marlborough Gardens / Masons Grove and Breakspear Way – yes, but these may already be protected by conditions within the planning consent.
- Adventure playground – WODC in process of applying for a 25-year lease.
- "Scouts field" – north west of allotments – The Witney Buttercross scouts have purchased this for their adventure base.
- "Beach field" at East End – yes. Access via footpath 312/13/10.
- "Bridewell field" – is the field to the west of Bridewell Close – footpaths 312/29/30, 312/26/30 and 312/29/40 pass through it.

ACTION: SV will update the documents and pass to SL for distribution.

There was a question of how many kilometres of public rights of way there are in the parish and if this is unusually high for a parish of its size.

ACTION: SL to research.

NP261. To consider quotes to "polish" the Reg 14 document

SL has made enquiries, but to date has received no quotes for the work to polish the appearance of the Reg 14 Draft NP.

ACTION: DH to ask PC if there might be a budget to carry out this work.

SL will draft a post to go to the North Leigh Community Facebook page to ask for a local person who could carry out the work, either on a voluntary or paid basis. JW will post it.

ACTION: SL, JW.

NP262. Agree Actions to be carried out prior to next meeting.

See above.

NP263. Date of Next Meeting(s)

The next Neighbourhood Plan committee meeting will be in the Turner Hall at 6 p.m. on **Tuesday** 27th May.

SL will circulate the dates for the policy review meeting with CFO in the w/c 23rd June when they have been agreed.

The next public consultation will be at 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday 11th July in the Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed at 1920