

**MINUTES of a Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Committee of
North Leigh Parish Council (NLPC) held on
Monday 7th 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
Kevin Swann (Vice Chair / PC) – KS
Judith Wardle – JW
Adrian Watts – AW
Sherard Veasey (Chair) – SV

NP243. Apologies for absence

Malcolm Shead (PC) - MS

NP244. Declarations of Interest

None.

NP245. Public Forum

Not applicable.

NP246. To Consider Actions of Last Meeting

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

NP240 – SL – to arrange date for the next Public Meeting – done (6 p.m. Friday 11th July – apologies – SV, AW).
NP240 – DH – obtain Land Registry document for the Windmill Field - Done & circulated.

NP247. Consider draft Policies received from CFO

The following comments were made on the draft policies:

General Comment:

- Although we agreed at the last meeting to receive draft policies piecemeal, members of the committee expressed a view that it has turned out to be difficult to comment on them as we don't know whether other policies will cover issues that appear to be missing, nor is it possible to check for overlap or consistency until all policies have been received.
- It was suggested that face to face meetings with CFO would be useful in reviewing the policies, possibly online, if that would be more convenient.
- Can CFO please provide a more detailed timeline for the next 8 weeks up to the Public Meeting?

Upcoming biodiversity and wildlife policies - TM suggested the committee find out if the Oxfordshire Treescape Project has any data on North Leigh – **ACTION:** JW will make inquiries.

IF1 – Community Infrastructure and Facilities

- Add a mention of the Youth Centre (rear of Memorial Hall) to the Background Evidence and the list in Rationale / Para 3.
- Rationale / para 3 / “a range of community facilities” -> “a limited range of community facilities that are generally regarded by residents as being inadequate”.
- Rationale / final para – “As the community grows” -> “Should the community grow” (the parish questionnaire records a view that the residents would not welcome any more growth, which the original wording fails to recognise).

IF2 – Building a strong, sustainable economy

- North Leigh parish mainly consists of agricultural land, but IF2 makes no mention of the contribution of agriculture to the local economy. We would like it to contain policies to promote or support the development of agricultural businesses and employment.
- IF2 part A, para III. “Zero Carbon Transition” – the committee does not believe that this was expressed at the Public Meeting or in the Questionnaire or its responses.
- Rationale – this does not record the views expressed in the Public Meeting and Questionnaire responses that the rural feel of the parish is of great importance to residents. The idea of improving local employment opportunities was welcomed, but on balance residents would not want to see large scale development of the existing business parks unless that had minimal impact on the rural feel of the parish.
- Rationale – map – caption has typo – “commercia”.

- Rationale - the Oxfordshire Knowledge Spine does not extend into West Oxfordshire so seems to have no relevance to North Leigh. Also appears in IF2 Para B.

RS1 – Key Local Views

- Looking at the Stonesfield draft NP, we liked the idea of having two maps, one for inward views, the other for outward views.
- We'd also like many more views recorded in our plan – at present only six, we could have up to 20 perhaps?
- We liked the way Stonesfield had recorded several view points along the line of a PRW.
- We have at present no views in East End – e.g. over the Roman Villa.
- We should have more views that highlight the centrality of the Grade I listed church from a number of directions.
- We will work on the additional views at the next meeting to collate committee members suggestions.

RS2 – Local Green Space

- JW spoke to the owner of the land to the north of Chapel Lane. Footpath 312/20/10 crosses it diagonally. She is apparently resolute in refusing regular offers from developers to buy her land for development. DH suggested that it might be possible for the PC to offer the landowner to take a long lease on the land in order to protect it. It would also be possibly a candidate for a Local Green Space.

ACTION – JW to confirm the name of the landowner.

- SV commented that he had sent expanded text for Local Green Spaces to TM on 19th February, but the text has not been incorporated in the latest draft CA that we have. SV's text identifies a large number of LGS's, but the draft RS2 policy mentioned only one. Two additional LGS's suggested – (a) the green spaces surrounding numbers 2-12 Akeman Road in Marlborough Gardens. (b) – The field that has been leased by Charlbury(?) Scouts for their scout hut / adventure centre – this is the field to the north of the allotments.
- SV commented that there may be a case for designating certain historic assets within the parish as an LGS. For example, Grims Ditch.
- Paragraphs A, B, C and E contain the words "Development proposals ... will be supported". This wording contradicts the opinions expressed at the Public Meeting and in the Questionnaire responses. We suggest alternative wording such as "If a development proposal should be approved then it will be expected to make provision for the enhancement of local infrastructure (etc.)."

ACTION – SV to email our comments to TM.

NP248. Consider the Stonesfield draft NP

- Generally thought to be an impressively polished draft.
- Facilities within Stonesfield seem superior in many respects to those in North Leigh despite Stonesfield having a smaller population.
- We would be interested to know how the committee persuaded local landowners to consent to the LGS's that surround parts of the village.
- We would be interested to know how much support they received from CFO, who are credited in the document.
- We were impressed by the professional standard of the graphic design and layout of the Stonesfield document and would like to find out if CFO will finish ours to the same standard. We had an email exchange with TM on 28/3/24 in relation to the polished appearance of the Brize Norton NP. TM said that they don't have access to the tools used for that so it was done by a community volunteer. CFO can only draft using MSWord.
- **The committee cannot see any reason to object to the Stonesfield draft plan.**

NP249. Windmill Field

- Discussed along with Local Green Spaces.

NP250. Parish Meeting – 15th April

- SV, SL, DP, and others will attend.

NP251. Agree Actions to be carried out prior to next meeting.

See above.

NP252. Date of Next Meeting

The next Neighbourhood Plan committee meeting will be in the Turner Hall at 6 p.m. on Monday 28th April.

Meeting closed at 1920