

**MINUTES of a Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Committee of
North Leigh Parish Council (NLPC) held on
Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 2:00 pm in the Turner Hall**

Committee Members Present:

Paul Evans – PE
Steve Legg (Secretary) – SL
Suzanne Millar - SM
Kevin Swann (PC) – KS

Sherard Veasey (Chair) - SV
Judith Wardle – JW
Adrian Watts – AW

NP358. Apologies for absence

David Harris
David Painter

NP359. Public Forum

None.

NP360. Declarations of Interest

None.

NP361. To Agree and sign the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed by the chairman

NP362. To Consider Actions of Last Meeting

NP355 – completed.

NP363. To consider the status of the ongoing the NP Reg 14 Consultation

(The Plan was made available for consultation on 27th March. The consultation will conclude on 22nd May).

- There were 61 members of the public (excluding committee members) at the Public meeting on 11th April. The low turnout may be because people think that the danger of uncoordinated development has receded now that the 7 proposed sites for development have been rejected for the draft WODC LP 2043.
- At the time of the meeting there had been 70 responses to the consultation. There was some discussion of why the response rate has been so low and what impact this might have on the examination of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Committee and the Parish Council have done a lot of publicity about the consultation, but it seems not to have produced the desired results.
- Although there is a substantial number of young people and families in the parish, it was felt that this demographic has an especially low engagement with planning.
- There was a discussion about the prospects of turnout for the referendum. At one level, since the outcome is by simple majority, the number voting is not relevant. However, at another level, a very low turnout is vulnerable to a small activist group unfairly dictating the result.
- KS had circulated copies of some responses received from members of the public. In many cases, comments tended to be in the vein of “agree with the intent, but would suggest slight rewording/clarification of a Policy”.

NP364. To consider actions following the end of the pre-submission Reg 14 Consultation

- KS will arrange with the Clerk for a final call for responses to go out on Friday 22nd.
ACTION: KS
- JW will arrange for there to be a quiz at the Community Café in advance of the Referendum to maximise the participation.
ACTION: JW
- KS explained the procedure we must follow in dealing with the consultation responses.

- There was a discussion of the responses received to date by local businesses and organisations. The only statutory consultee to have responded is Thames Water, who provided a standard reply. WODC have yet to respond.
- There have been ongoing discussions with landowners of the proposed Local Green Spaces –Manor House Site, Bridewell Field, and North Leigh Roman Villa site. DH and SV have been involved along with the Clerk. After the consultation has finished, their responses will be considered and dealt with according to the procedure outlined above.
- The format of the standard response to consultation comments has already been drafted. Essentially it simply acknowledges receipt of the comment and states that comments will be considered and may result in changes to the text of the draft plan.
- At our next meeting the committee will start to process the responses.
- After we have processed all of the responses and written up how we have dealt with them, our response document and the updated plan will go to WODC who will run the “Reg 16” consultation. This is likely to take some months. Following this the Committee will have to make changes to the Plan according to the result of the Reg 16 consultation. Once WODC is satisfied with our response to the consultation, they will organise a referendum. It’s difficult to predict how long this will take, but the referendum seems unlikely to occur much before summer next year.

NP365. To agree actions to be carried out prior to next meeting
See above

NP366. Date of Next Meeting

The next Neighbourhood Plan committee meeting will be in the Turner Hall at 4 p.m. on Monday 8th June.
(Please note change of date).

Meeting closed at 15:40.