

Long Melford Parish Council
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

MINUTES OF MEETING

held on Thursday 18 January 2018 at Melford Court

Present

G Eade (Chairman),	GE
J Ewbank (Meeting Chairman)	JE
Cllr J Nunn,	JN
Cllr R Kemp,	RK
J Burch (minute taker),	JB
I Bartlett,	IB
I MacDonald,	IM
D & C Watts,	DW & CW
W & A Hyde-Parker ,	WHP & AHP
J Thomson.	JT
J Candler & P Byrant, BDC	JC & PB
+ 3 members of the public observing.	

Apologies

Cllr J Lines, J Watts, LM Parish Clerk

1. Introduction:

JE welcomed Mrs C Watts to the group.

2. Review of Previous Minutes:

Minutes accepted as correct record.

Report on Actions:

JL and RK agreed to join the Traffic Group.

AHP agreed to help the Infrastructure Group *albeit she would not be joining the committee.*

JT advised that the Sudbury Tourist Information Centre will supply details of enquiries relating to Long Melford on a monthly basis.

JT has supplied list of organisations and contacts and has also placed photos of iconic views in Dropbox. Photos, by her husband, to be credited if published.

3. Update on Progress since last meeting in November:

IM confirmed the village profile is progressing.

GE outlined the background of the NP and work to date for the benefit of the public members present. Current stage is about gathering evidence to justify plan policies.

IM informed the meeting of the significant scrutiny that the plan will undergo and need for robust evidence.

Next key stage of public engagement will be Open Day on 10th February 2018.

IM reminded the meeting of the proposed timetable. It was noted that recent events (Station Road development proposals) have added pressure to bring forward the timetable. Now aiming to have the draft plan and associated environmental assessments ready late

summer for BDC inspection, then submission to Planning Inspector then public Referendum in November 2018.

PB reminded the group of the need for 6 week period for pre-consultation; a further 6 weeks for BDC consideration of the plan and then 4-6 weeks for the Inspector. Adoption of the plan post referendum will depend on BDC Committee timetable.

(Action: I McDonald to circulate updated timetable)

JB asked about the BDC Local Plan and the significance of the NP if the Local Plan is not complete. JC confirmed that the most recently adopted policy takes precedent and the aim would be for the Local and NP plans to be complementary.

BDC has not met its 5-year land supply and thus at present is limited in its ability to manage planning decisions with a 'presumption to approve'. DW asked for clarification of 'land supply'. JC confirmed this refers to certainty of delivery of 5-year housing need. There is plenty of land identified for development but not all sites are actually being built.

RK requested clarification of the numbers of houses that LM is expected to accept in the next 20 years, bearing in mind the extent of recent planning consents issued. JC advised that neither the BDC policy nor Government targets have not yet been confirmed, with more clarification expected by mid-February. IM suggested that LM share of figures, assuming current permissions taken into account, could amount to 150-200 over the 20-year period of the NP.

IM suggested the group should be working with developers, both to identify sites and ascertain certainty of delivery.

At this stage, two members of the public left the meeting angry that the group is not able to stop development. The group suggested that this is a typical misunderstanding about the role of the Group and that we need to manage this in future communications.

There was discussion about whether the plan should include site allocations or strong policies. There is strong advice from BDC and the MP that site allocation will strengthen the plan. However, JB noted that the identification of sites was likely to increase opposition to the plan and make acceptance less likely. IM suggested that strong criteria will be needed to judge any possible sites. No conclusion was reached and both options will be pursued in the coming months, including testing opinions through a public questionnaire.

It was agreed that as well as accelerating the housing group's work, the other groups will need to bring forward their timetables.

WH-P informed the group that he had been approached by developers and was in conversation about possible sites. For this reason he agreed to step down from the Group but will continue to work with it.

4. Update on Working Groups' progress

Housing Group- covered in previous section.

Traffic & Parking Group: JN circulated letter providing SCC's advice re surveys. It was noted that the Church is pursuing coach parking at the top of The Green and are currently waiting for SCC to install a drop-curve.



Infrastructure Group: Capacity of both school and doctors critical evidence needed.
(Action: JB to review recent planning applications for responses from doctors and SCC Education Dept.
JE to set up meetings with medical practice and Headmistress/School Governors)

5. Public Meeting on 10th Feb

Meeting 1000 – 1500, with question sessions at 1100 and 1300, led by GE. Key emphasis will be positive nature of having a NP for the village.

GE will collate all material and put up banners to advertise.

All sub groups to prepare material, including tasks for volunteers and send to GE by end Jan. JE and GE to write welcome information board for the meeting with update on the progress of the NP to date, statement of the case for being involved with (and managing extent of) anticipated development and explanation that zero development in LM is not a realistic option

(Action: JB, JN, IM, JE)

It is likely that groups opposed to the development of the land opposite Station Road will come along to protest.

(Action: JN, JE & GE to meet key personnel ahead of the meeting)

6. Appointment of External Consultants

JE had previously circulated details of brief and possible consultants to take forward both household survey and deliver public realm design for Hall Street. £8000 budget available through grants.

It was agreed that IM would update and circulate scope of work and that procurement of suitable consultant would proceed as soon as possible.

(Action: IM)

The Group will undertake as many tasks as possible to reduce costs and BDC offered help and sharing of any relevant material available.

7. Dates of Future Meetings

15 Feb 2018

8 March 2018

All meetings at 7.00pm.
Venues to be confirmed.



8-3-18