

# Long Melford Parish Council

## Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

### MINUTES OF MEETING

held on Thursday 12 September 2019 at the URC, Long Melford

#### Present

Cllr J Ewbank (Chairman of the Steering Group), G Eade, I McDonald, Cllr L Tipper, Cllr J Nunn, J Burch, Parish Clerk (minute taker).

#### 1. Introduction & Apologies:

There were apologies for absence from: Cllr I Bartlett, J Thomson, C Watts, Cllr D Watts.  
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting,

#### 2. Review of Previous Minutes:

The clerk provided minutes for 23 May & 18 July. The committee provided unanimous approval for the minutes to be signed.

#### 3. Amendments to Plan following Reg 14 Consultation:

I McDonald provided a brief on the work completed thus far, and the main areas of concern that are still to be resolved with BDC going forward –Specifically, an issue from the emerging Local Plan consultation, which produced a Settlement boundary that was “exceptionally tight”, and thus excluded our 3 largest development sites. Consultation with BDC on our Reg 14 also raised issues:

- (a) with our policy choice regarding a green buffer to prevent coalescence with Sudbury,
- (b) Regarding site K1 (Hamilton Land), where the site is perceived to have difficulties because of adjacency to Kentwell Hall, the Footpath running through the site, and the Common Land barrier between site and roadway – BDC are asking the NHP to consider this a Rural Exception Site allocation, which is an ongoing discussion.
- (c) Affordable Housing – BDC are concerned with the NHP policy, as only a single site makes use of the policy, and it may be advisable/easier to work from BDC’s existing policy. This could cause concern regards locality (local homes for local people) for those eligible for affordable housing.
- (d) Allotments- There is an allotment assignment attributed to one of the major sites – is the amenity instead of/in addition to affordable housing? BDC resolution required.

The last 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the amendments are to be tackled starting on 16 Sep by G Eade, Cllr J Ewbank and I McDonald. This will then be the last piece of work before handing over to Rosey for finalising the master document.

#### 4. Timetable for Completion:

The chairman reported that the timetable has necessarily slipped somewhat, as the attempt to cover the 80 odd pages of comment following Reg 14 consultation was somewhat arduous. It is expected that the revised plan will be available for NHP committee discussion in early November, followed by Parish Council approval, before submission to BDC in mid to late November.

#### 5. Update on SEA final Report:

The chairman reported that the SEA is also progressing in tandem, and will be submitted to BDC at the same time as the NHP is handed over. It is a little of a “chicken and Egg” situation, as the SEA needs to view our policies in order to finish their report: Our NHP Policies need to take into account the SEA finalised statement prior to submission.

The Chairman also brought to attention of the Committee the recently approved Environmental Policy adopted by the Parish Council. It was stated that an audit will be held of NHP Policies, to ensure there is no conflict is held between NHP polices and the LMPC Environmental Policy.

## 6. PIIP Update:

The chairman reported that the PIIP which was written to cover additional off-street parking at the Village Hall, and the Village Hall Roof where in the final stages of approval within BDC for CIL 123 Funding – All being well we would hear back shortly for approval to proceed on those items, funded by the BDC CIL 123 “pot”.

Clr Tipper than talked about the footpath/cycle path project being pursued by the sub-committee. With Parish support (agreed at Sep 5<sup>th</sup> meeting), it is proposed that 5 Circular footpaths be established as walking routes about the town, as an attraction for tourists, to encourage health and wellbeing, and to enable better views of our Village. It will be similar in format to the Clare walking routes, and will launch in Spring of next year. It is hoped that the shortest of the routes can be established as wheelchair friendly.

7. **AOB:** The chairman reported that a meeting with the NHS CCG had been established and would be happening on 18 September. There was also request for the NHP to respond to the Planning Application for the Old Filling Station - as this was an initial application, it was thought to be not an NHP matter at this point, and to be left for LMPC Planning.

## 8. Dates of Future Meetings

Thursday Nov 14<sup>th</sup>

All meetings at 7.00pm.

Venues to be confirmed as URC.

Meeting closed at 20:42pm