


J. Ewbank
23/5/19.

Long Melford Parish Council
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

MINUTES OF MEETING

held on Thursday 14 March 2019 at the URC, Long Melford

Present

Cllr I Bartlett, Cllr G Eade (Chairman of the Steering Group), J Ewbank (Vice Chairman of the Steering Group, and Chairman for the meeting), I McDonald, Cllr J Nunn, J Thomson, C Watts, D Watts, Parish Clerk (minute taker).

Also present was 1 members of the Public

1. Introduction & Apologies:

There were apologies for absence from: J Burch, & Cllr R Kemp

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting,

2. Review of Previous Minutes:

It was agreed unanimously that the minutes of the previous meeting (17 Jan 19) should be accepted. The minutes were duly signed.

3. Regulation 14 Update

I McDonald stated that the table of responses has now been built, and action against those responses is underway. The bulkiest of the responses came from the 2 Local Authorities and the 2 developers looking for larger scale development. All comments are taken seriously, and are to be critically reviewed to ensure that we have a robust and improved plan.

The member of the public then asked whether our Neighbourhood Plan had a view of extending their vision beyond 2034. This was answered in brief by I McDonald, but it was asked that the question be asked again more formally in email, and a more thoughtful answer provided after deliberation.

The issue of the Green Buffer (to prevent coalescence with Sudbury), was reported to be no longer acceptable to BDC in their Reg14 response, as it is contrary to the requirements in NPPF 99/100.

ACTION: The clerk was tasked with determining how Great Waldingfield where handling this in their emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

4. Timetable and SEA update:

I McDonald reported on the requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as stated by BDC following our Reg 14 consultation. BDC's grounds for the requirement have been challenged, as the NHP team feel they have met the requirements. In the meantime, whilst the issue is debated, the team have also spoken with Locality to begin the SEA process through AECOM (this will be funded by Locality). The concern expressed was the timeline for an SEA, and the subsequent requirement to then re-run Reg 14 on completion. We would lose in the region of 4-6 months from our timetable to enable this SEA process. If the SEA must be done, then we will use it to ensure the robustness of the plan and utilise it to ensure that additional consultation has been seen and understood by all.

5. Design Quotes for final Plan Document: G Eade stated that we have had 2 quotes thus far. One came to £3500 + vat based on £50 p/h and the other much less (£240 plus vat based on £40 p/h) but the latter seems to have misunderstood the brief and thus is likely to have underquoted. This will be clarified. Meanwhile the other quote whilst from an excellent firm strikes us as dear, so a third quote is now being sought. This is no longer as urgent in light of the SEA issues expressed above.

6. Outcome of PIIP Presentation to Parish Council: The Clerk explained that the PIIP was presented to Council on 7th March and unanimously approved in its entirety. Council understood the value of the PIIP in terms of CIL 123 funding. The deferral of the Hall Street Public Realm study in order to gain further evidence from the

first Public Realm study 25 years ago was much appreciated. The Clerk would now be lodging the PIIP with BDC.

7. **Update on SOS assistance:** The SOS team have recently been assisted by the NHP team in helping select their Barrister/Solicitor to lead the team, at the hearing. A local solicitor has been selected from the 4 interviewed. The solicitor would lead the team, and other experts would be utilised to make our case. It is felt that the Babergh expert for Landscaping was excellent, and there was no need to duplicate their effort. The team were progressing with the Highways expert, but it was felt that this may be a weak argument, and could possibly be shelved. A resident of longevity for the village is sought who would be able to provide a clear and articulate story of how the village has evolved, and what this additional development would mean to the village.
8. **AOB:** The SOS team wanted it known that there was to be a meal and Silent Auction held at Scutchers on 10th April.

9. Dates of Future Meetings

Thursday May 23rd

Thursday July 18th

Thursday Sep 12th

Thursday Nov 14th

All meetings at 7.00pm.

Venues to be confirmed as URC.

Meeting closed at 21:03pm