

Long Melford Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

MINUTES OF MEETING

held on Thursday 23 January 2020 at the URC, Long Melford

Present

J Ewbank (Chairman of the Steering Group), I McDonald, G Eade, I Bartlett, J Thomson, C Watts, D Watts, R Kemp, L Tipper, J Burch, E Malvisi

1. Apologies:

None

2. Minutes of 14 November meeting:

Approved

Since then nothing has happened about the proposed Heritage Impact and Mitigation assessment for the Hamilton Land. IMcD to follow that up with the trustees as the Steering Group thinks it is important to move ahead with that swiftly. RK says the Trustees have recently discovered that the land has not been registered and it should be.

3. Skylarks:

Decision by Secretary of State was due by 23 January but has been further delayed

4. SEA:

IMcD, JE and DW have made comments on the first draft. IMcD will co-ordinate and raise issues of concern with AECOM so they can be taken into account in the next version. JE to circulate the document with comments to the rest of the NPSG; to be kept confidential at this stage because it is very much a first draft and likely to change.

5. Moving to Regulation 15:

The Regulation 14 draft has been amended as a result of comments received. The BDC draft local plan had Built Up Area Boundaries in it and some of our key allocated sites are outside this. IMcD raised this with BDC and they agreed we can redraw the boundaries if necessary so long as we justify doing so.

JE to circulate the latest version of the NP policies, as amended in the light of comments.

6. Parish Council Environmental Policy:

JE to circulate this

7. What is left to do:

Lots. JE to liaise with Rosey Eade about editing the amended plan and with Indigo Ross over the design. Indigo Ross have already done draft designs for some appendices and JE to circulate these. Basic Conditions section is still to be written – IMcD will put that together.

8. PIIP update:

Parish Council now has a PIIP group to progress projects and spend on CIL and S106 money. This will cover some of the Community Action points in the plan.

JT reported on progress of the circular walks project which is now well advanced and will be launched on Easter Monday (13 April).

JE reported on progress with the car parks and Melford in Bloom.

9. Village Centre improvement:

There is great concern over the number of shops closing and being left empty. And there is now a Parish Council Village Centre Group made up of Parish Councillors and representatives of businesses.

A meeting with BDC Heritage and Planning staff is being held on 6 Feb to discuss how heritage objections to planning applications are hampering businesses and leading to empty premises.

LT and team are looking at providing more and better litter bins and more dog poo bins.

JE and IMcD met with some local business owners and will progress various issues such as approaching landlords to reduce rents.

Public Realm Study. There was much discussion about this, with some arguing it should go ahead asap and others saying it would be better to tackle individual issues such as traffic volume and speeds and parking (bringing in experts in the fields to help). It was agreed that action needs to be taken rapidly to help prevent more businesses closing and encourage new ones to open. A 'Vision for Sudbury' exhibition is taking place on 29 and 30 January in St Peter's Church from 2pm to 7pm and members of the Steering Group were encouraged to go along to that, though some stated they were away and unable to.

In the end it was agreed that those attending the Vision event would pool their ideas and one from their number would outline thoughts and a recommendation at our next meeting (on 19th March) as to whether we go back to the PC to promote the adoption of our own full Public Realm Study into the issues that are worrying us with Melford. Alternatively we could proceed via our own incremental efforts through the PC (calling in specialist input on specific subject areas when required). This will be for discussion and agreement as to what we recommend, next time.

10. Meeting with GP Practice and Clinical Commissioning Group:

JE/GE and IM gave a quick update on the CCG/Practice meeting where broadly the mood was more positive than expected and a range of action points have emerged, some of which may be relevant to the NP (i.e. if there is any prospect that the practice would like to take forward discussions for an extension to the LM building). There is an intention to arrange a follow up meeting to discuss the action points so JE/GE/IM can report back accordingly at a future NPSG meeting.

11. AOB:

No major items

12. Date of next meeting

Thursday 19 March, 7pm URC.