

**Winterbournes Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG)  
Minutes of the 21st meeting held on 22nd February 2016**

**Attendance:** Mervyn Pannett (MP) (Chair), Maureen Atkinson (MA), , Barry Lake (BL), Chris Campbell-Jones (CCJ), Peter Biggins (PB), Charles Penn (CP) and Richard Folkes (RF)

1. **Apologies received from:** Graham Lloyd (GL)

2. **Minutes of the last meeting.** The minutes of the last meeting (20th) held on 25th January, 2015 were accepted and approved, subject to a minor spelling error: Sarah Hughes is a Link Officer and not, alas, a Link Office. Consequently, MP will re-issue the corrected minutes including the acronym at the heading (NPEG to NPSG).

**ACTION: MP**

3. **Matters Arising, not covered under Agenda Items.**

a. SHLAAs. MP reported that although the SG had advised the Link Officer of the SHLAA site errors, the Wiltshire Council website had not been updated. This was either meant to have taken place in either February or, subject to different advice, on an ad hoc basis.

b. Action 3a. The need for a Sustainability Appraisal remains to be determined subject to the views of stakeholders on the future location of development land.

c. Action 4a. Finance and Business Plan. PB suggested that in light of the information received from Patrick Curry<sup>1</sup> at the previous meeting, there is no further action other than the administration of the £7k funding by the Parish Council. Such costs as photocopying, laminating, printing etc would fall under this funding route. MP could mention this matter at the Parish Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 (see para 5 below). PB Suggested that MP might care to report on all the work of the NPSG, bearing in mind that there would be a village meeting on the NP on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

d. Acton 4b. The Village Questionnaire. It was agreed that it would be sensible to await the outcome of the village meeting before generating this questionnaire.

4. **Feedback on Patrick Curry's briefing note.** Mr Curry had requested that the NPSG provide comments on his briefing. The view of the Chair was that as we were at the front-end of the process and, consequently, our knowledge was only just maturing, it would be difficult for us to gainsay his advice. MP took an action to formally thank Mr Curry for his presentation and for agreeing to advise us in the future, should the need arise.

**ACTION: MP**

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<sup>1</sup> Chairman of Shrewton NPSG

**5. NP Vision Statement.** MP welcomed the work that had been done but because it is a wide ranging Vision Statement all agreed that by the time it was aired at the Village Meeting thought should be given to using relevant and meaningful wording so that the villagers did not see it as purely a semantic exercise. It is, in its current form, too long and the general feeling was that some of the aspirational amenities could never be satisfied in reality (eg numerous dog waste bins). The first paragraph set the scene for 2026 adequately, and the remaining paragraphs added context for further consideration. However, it would be sensible to include reference to the NP itself in the first paragraph (*ie 'Local development will have been carefully managed in accordance with the NP'*) and to make reference to *'historic buildings and their settings'*. Also, change penultimate sentence to *"improved bus services and cycle links"* and in the last sentence delete *'improved'* and replace with *'enhanced'*.

5a. RF made the point that what the villagers would want to know is, what is the scale of development for the parish up to 2026? His suggestion was that we should state that the plan would be to develop sites to the extent required under the current Core Strategy (ie c 30-35 houses) but that any further development would be achieved on a case-by-case basis. PC emphasised that development is about more than houses; it also includes community benefits such as improving the land drainage, car parking, etc. To achieve these, one may need a scale of development in the villages substantially more than is currently in the Core Strategy. Ideally, any additional build would not only leave the character of the villages in tact but, if agreed, would also bring significant benefits to the community. There is an issue that the NP might, if development is constrained by it, have the unintended consequence of restraining development at some future date when it might be considered beneficial. The problem is that if only 35 houses were built on one site at the same time, it might not be commercially viable for the builder to provide any additional amenities for the villagers. The SG may need some professional advice to understand the maths. Certainly, if the housing was allowed to increase beyond the agreed minimum (Core Strategy), the villagers should be insisting on additional amenities as part of the deal. PC suggested that the Questionnaire could ask villagers what amenities they would view as priority. One could then equate numbers of houses to amenities to be delivered (eg 35 houses = nothing, 65 houses = a car park). MP reminded the SG that the actual number of new houses required by the Core Strategy (c 225) would be shared between the other Large Villages in the Amesbury area. The Winterbournes may, therefore, be required to have more or even less than 35 new houses. MP pointed out that the NP is about land usage and cannot be about policies outwith the control of villagers (eg superfast broadband, buses and bins, as currently depicted in the Vision Statement). Although, something like a proper, lit pedestrian walkway between Hurdcott and the rest of the Winterbournes should be easier to accomplish and perhaps even a cycle route to Salisbury.

5b. The results of the Housing Needs Survey were well received and indications are that the villagers accept that some development, especially more affordable housing, will have to take place in the parish during the period to 2026.

**6/7. NP KEY POINT/OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES.** It is important to include public green space and community land (in trust) and consecrated land in any policy. BL mentioned the square at Summerlug as an example of green space. On the subject of policies, MP had produced a "NP Policies" paper for consideration which he would hope to present at the Village Meeting. To refine this document, the SG would need to involve a sub-group to firstly

review and develop the Vision Statement and then distil objectives and policies from it before it is presented at the Village Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

**ACTION RF, PB and MA**

8. **VILLAGE MEETING.** The Village NP meeting will take place at 14:00hrs on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016, although the Glebe Hall will be available to the SG from 13:00hrs. The SG could come up with some questions for the villagers and post-its would be available for them to stick their answers directly onto hardcopies of the key A3 presentation slides generated by MP. The event could be advertised on the NP website and through a 'drop'. The leaflet could also include the Best Kept Village notice. In addition, MA could hammer home sign posts into the grass verges on the main road, advertising the event.

**ACTION MA, MP and SG**

9. **VILLAGE LINK ARTICLE** MP will draft an article and send it to the SG for comment before 8 March, which is the date of publication. MP will cover the Housing Needs Survey briefly and also inform villagers about the upcoming meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. The publication also includes a "Calendar of Events" and it would be useful to include the Village Meeting amongst the other events.

**ACTION MA**

10. **AOB** MA suggested that it would be worthwhile entreating other villagers to join the SG as the attrition rate amongst recently joined SG members is significant. The best way to recruit new people would be to keep the offer open and make it widely known (eg Village Link, Website, etc).

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** 30 March, 2016