



## LAMBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

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### MINUTES

#### Lambourn Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group Meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in the Memorial Hall at 2pm

**Apologies:** Helen Noll; Bridget Jones; Will Riggall; Howard Woollaston.

- 45: MINUTES OF MEETING on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023** were signed and actions confirmed/updated. SC reported that the website is gradually being updated. SC and WR had had a useful meeting with Christina Dunlop from the Lambourn Valley Housing Trust.
- 46: PAYMENT** of £4,091.82 to Bluestone Planning was approved.
- 47: The LNDP budget** for 2024-5 was discussed. The Chair of LPC had raised a question about the ongoing cost of the Plan, particularly the payments to Bluestone Planning, and had suggested reducing the agreed amount of £9000 precepted for the current year. SG members felt neither the nature of the work being done by Bluestone Planning, nor the value and significance of a properly made NDP, legally watertight, was fully understood by the current Parish Councillors. It was agreed that SC, MBJ and BJ would meet with the LPC Chair (Vicky Reunier) to discuss the current budget and issues involved. VR could also be invited to attend the next SG meeting and SC will prepare a presentation for Parish Councillors on the LNDP, to be given at December's Full Council meeting. In the light of the feedback from AECOM (see below) it was agreed that costs could rise further. A Locality grant of £2,621 should be accessible, and MBJ suggested more funding might be available, depending on the new rules for next year's grants. The SG suggested CiL money could also be used to fund completion of the LNDP. Given the uncertainty of these alternative sources of income, it was further agreed to request £2000 be added to LPC's precept for 2024-25 for the LNDP.  
*(Post-meeting: SC and MBJ will meet with Chair and Clerk of LPC on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>.)*
- 48: FEEDBACK** from the meeting with AECOM about the HRA and SEA was given. SC, BL and HW had met virtually with Laurie Marriott from AECOM, to

further the process of applying for Technical Grants. LM agreed the HRA and SEA need to be done. In response to our request for advice on the updating of the HNA, he also agreed it needs to be reviewed and updated where necessary (e.g. the 2021 census statistics should be used). He will forward the three requests to Locality and the DLUHC for approval for Technical Grants. The HNA and HRA should not take long, but he later advised that the SEA, being an assessment of “medium complexity” will take up to 29 weeks to complete. The SG did know that there were delays, but this is excessive. A possible alternative is to pay for the assessment ourselves, without grant aid. SC will enquire about costs/timing. AECOM will be in touch to set up Inception Meetings with the SG, at which the scope of the work to be done will be determined.

- 49: TO DECIDE** progressing the Allocation of Housing Sites. It was agreed to investigate what could be done to progress the Allocation of Housing Sites whilst waiting for the completion of the SEA and HRA. SC to ask SB to advise.
- 50: TO DISCUSS** update on LGS: PP had gone through the sites suggested and PK (Bluestone Planning) had sent advice. It was agreed to remove sites which were protected by other legislation (e.g SSSI; SAM) and those which were considered too far from settlements, although concern was expressed about the status of otherwise unprotected woodland. Several smaller sites could be grouped with others nearby (e.g. Woodbury verge and triangle at junction of Newbury Road and Bockhampton Road). PP will further assess the list of potential sites, reducing the number. The list of those removed will be evidence that we have considered other sites.
- 51: TO REVIEW** latest version of the Foreword to the LNDP from BJ: It was suggested that aspirations be grouped together after section 1.2. As the Plan is a work in progress, some aspirations will be confirmed in policies. Mention to be made of size of civil Parish and its varied landscape, land use and needs. With regard to highlighted areas:  
Working with Businesses: Examples of the LNDP’s efforts to foster best practice can be included, demonstrating inclusiveness.  
Needs of Young and Elderly: Again, we do have examples which can be included here.  
Localised Flooding and Climate Change: SC to add explanation of types of flooding experienced in the Parish, showing why it is different.
- 52: FEEDBACK** on input from 14 – 18 year olds. There had been no further input from LPC.
- 53: FEEDBACK** (brief) from NWD AONB Annual Forum and Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy webinar. SC and BJ had attended both events. The former was interesting and provided some useful examples of good practice and contacts. The latter is in its initial stages, with committees being set up to link strategy across the six Berkshire unitary authorities. The contribution of NDPs has yet to be established, as the relevant sub-group has not yet met. Developments (and minutes) awaited.

**54: ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:** Local Green Spaces update; AECOM response.

**55: DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday NOVEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>. 2.30pm**