

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting held at Methodist Church Hall, Mortimer on Tuesday 15 July 2025 19:30

Attendees

Joanne Emberson-Wines – Meeting Chair (JW); Tennant Barber (TB); Graham Bridgman (GB); Nick Carter (NC); Bob Coe (BC); Mark Hillyer (MH); Doug Overett (DO); Sallyann Taylor (ST – Minute Taker)

Two members of the public were present.

1. Apologies

Neil Kiley (NK); Clare Stafford (CS); Jayne Todd (JT).

2. Declarations of Interest

None were reported.

3. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of 17 July 2025 were agreed with no amendments.

#Jo Wines brought this item forward. The two members of the public attended regarding a (further) 'Call for sites' in January by Basingstoke & Deane BC, and the promotion of a new site in Mortimer West End adjacent to the SMPC boundary. The action for the NPSG is to talk to WBC about any implications for Stratfield Mortimer if this land was added to the Basingstoke & Deane Local Plan. ST will contact WBC to setup a meeting.

Actions: ST

4. NDP - Reserved Land

DO reported that we are still waiting on the planning application for the reserved land and Steve Davies from TA Fisher had requested a meeting with him.

Actions: DO

5. West Berkshire Council Feedback

JW, TB and BC had attended a meeting with West Berkshire Council (WBC) on 20 June regarding the Neighbourhood plan and said the meeting had gone well. WBC confirmed that any future sites for housing will be decided by SMPC. BC reported that support from Locality has been cut. Any future funding will need to come from SMPC allocated budget.

6. Neighbourhood plan updates

Policies

TB reported that of the 5 themes the Climate Change and Resilience, Environment and Community Energy policy themes were ready for approval by the SG.

The Climate Change policy was reviewed and needs some additional evidence from Cllr M Dennett relating to Thames Water and the MET data needs updating.

The Environment policy was reviewed, and it was agreed that ST would ask Action for River Kennett (ARK) for advice on Foudry Brook and whether we need to add anything else to the policy in relation to clay lined streams.

The Community Energy policy is ready.

GB and JT to prepare a general style template for these first three policies.

The Employment policy still needs work.

BC is working on the Highways policy.

The Design Codes document prepared by TB was reviewed and needs further discussion. For the next meeting the committee should read TB's 'HNA Conclusions and Recommendations' document, which was distributed.

Actions: TB, BC, GB, JT, ST

7. AOB

NC mentioned he met someone from 'Connecting Communities' who could provide input on the amount of affordable housing needed. Beech Hill are currently using her.

Close

Meeting ended 21:35

Next meeting 19.08.2025 at 19:30 at Methodist Church Hall, Mortimer