

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting held at Methodist Church Hall, Mortimer on Tuesday 21 April 2026 19:30

Steering Group Attendees

Doug Overett– Meeting Chair (DO); Tennant Barber (TB); Graham Bridgman (GB); Bob Coe (BobC); Neil Kiley (NK); Sallyann Taylor (ST – Minute Taker)

1. Apologies

Joanne Emberson-Wines (JW) and Jayne Todd (JT).

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 31 March 2026 were approved without amendment.

4. Discuss Tower Garden application in relation to policy GD5

GB reported that, at the Planning and Highways meeting on 2 April, the committee reviewed the amended plans submitted for the apartment blocks in Tower Gardens. The plans were revised in accordance with NDP policy GD5, specifically by incorporating the third floor into the roof space to achieve a 2.5-storey design. The committee has responded to West Berkshire Planning with no objection.

GB also reported that the West Berkshire Tree Officer had issued temporary Tree Preservation Orders affecting the school car park. Steve Davies from TA Fisher indicated that he believed a solution could be found to work around the restrictions. ST has written to the head of St John's Schools to seek their views.

5. Neighbourhood Plan –

Review amend and approve Preamble, Policies and Design Codes.

TB reported that he had taken the comments from WBC and Bell Cornwall (BC) and put them together in one document. The Steering Group reviewed the following:

- The Preamble
- Community Energy Policy
- Climate Change policy
- Employment, Facilities and Services Policy
- Design Codes
- Natural Environment

The actions that came out of the discussion: -

- DO has prepared the village commercial centre map, which needs adding to the Employment, Facilities and Services Policy. DO has also prepared the Assets of Community Value (ACV) list which needs adding to the same policy.

- WBC has recommended to remove SUDS from Climate Change policy as covered in WBC policy.
- TB and BobC to ask BC whether we should only allow new businesses in the commercial centre.
- We need to provide evidence of community views in the Design Codes. DO to put a post on Facebook asking residents to comment on their favourite views.
- TB and BC to check with BC whether our lighting policy is adequate.
- BobC has asked BC to provide an SEA statement that we can then send to WBC seeking confirmation, pre-Reg 14, that an SEA is not needed.
- TB to remove cross references from all policies.
- TB to update all the policies and send fresh copies to Bell Cornwell for review.
- BC have been instructed to put together a draft Reg 14 questionnaire, to be undertaken once the policy statements are finished

GB thanked TB and BobC for all their hard work.

Actions: TB, BobC, DO

Close

Meeting ended 21:20

Next meeting 19-05-2026 at 19:30 at Methodist Church Hall.