

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting held at Methodist Church Hall, Mortimer on Tuesday 18 August 2026 19:30

Steering Group Attendees

Joanne Emberson-Wines – Meeting Chair (JW); Graham Bridgman (GB); Bob Coe (BobC), Doug Overett (DO), Jayne Todd (JT) and Sallyann Taylor (ST – Minute Taker)

Members of the public

No members of the public were in attendance.

1. Apologies

Tennant Barber

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 21 July 2026 were approved without amendment.

4. Neighbourhood Plan updates

GB reported that he had produced Version 4 of the new Neighbourhood Plan (NP) following the release of the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) on 17 August 2026. Any new NPs need to reference the new NPPF. He requested help with proofreading and BobC agreed to produce a key events table. BobC also reported he had received the maps from Bell Cornwell. GB agreed to add a section on Maps and Plans, plus a reference to those in the Evidence Base.

Once this is done the draft NP will be taken to the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 27 August and Full Council meeting on 10 September 2026.

Actions: GB, BobC

5. Regulation 14 tasks and timescale

DO presented some options for the public consultations. The following was agreed

- A leaflet will be produced to promote the consultation and inform people where they can comment online. It will go out with the MVP newsletter in early October.
- Hard copies of a questionnaire will be made available at the Parish Office and the library.
- A public drop in will be held at the Mortimer Village market on 18 October. ST to book with the Market Working Party.

It was agreed to run the 6-week public consultation from 12 October to 23 November.

Actions: DO, ST

6. Scoping Consultation on the new West Berkshire Local Plan

Nobody had any comments to make, but it was thought that TB might be interested in providing some comments.

7. AOB

A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) survey was received from the Hampshire Association of Local Councils following the cessation in 2025 of central government-funded grants and specialist technical support packages that had previously been available to community groups developing standard Neighbourhood Development Plans. ST agreed to complete the survey.

Actions: ST

Close

Meeting ended 20:45

Next meeting 15-09-2026 at 19:30 at Methodist Church Hall.