

Tilehurst Parish Council - Neighbourhood Plan

Zoom Meeting Minutes

21/04/2021, 19:30

1. Agenda

- Representation from members of the public
- Apologies for absence
- Declarations of Interest
- Agree minutes of previous meeting
- Matters arising from previous meeting minutes
- Review status of action items from previous meetings
- Project Plan update
- Budget update
- Communications
- Other Items

2. Present

Steering Group:

Kevin Page (Chairperson)
Peter Cross (Vice-Chairperson)
Julia Gentle
Clive Taylor
Alan Wade
Fred Williams

3. Representation from members of the public

None

4. Apologies for absence

None

5. Declarations of Interest

None

6. Agree minutes of previous meeting

All outstanding meeting minutes were agreed and will be uploaded to the website.

7. Matters arising from previous meeting minutes

None.

8. Review status of action items from previous meetings

None.

9. Project Plan Update

No update.

10. Budget Update

Kevin to follow up with Tilehurst Parish Council the settlement of the only outstanding invoice, submitted by Fred to cover the monthly fees for the Neighbourhood Plan website.

11. Communications

No update.

12. Other items

Local Green Spaces

Peter has been working on a reworked “appendix” covering the allocation of Local Green Spaces and will make copies available, for review, in the coming days.

Discussion took place about those areas that have/have not been included together with the reasons for their inclusion/exclusion. It was agreed that most of the areas are deemed to be already adequately protected leaving only Pincents Hill to be considered. However, all the areas will be listed in the Neighbourhood Plan document detailing the reasons for their inclusion/exclusion.

Clive mentioned that an “evidence-gathering” day is being organised for the Pincents Hill area. Volunteers will be asked to observe how the area is currently being used. This is being organised by local volunteers, not the Tilehurst Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. However, the information gathered will be reviewed by the Neighbourhood Plan team and added to the “evidence base”.

Missing “Ecology Report” for Pincents Hill

It was raised in the last meeting, by members of the public, that the previously available “Ecology Report” is now no longer available to the public. Kevin has followed this up with several District Councillors who have confirmed that the document still exists but is not available on the West Berkshire Council website.

The reason given is that the report contains sensitive information such as the location of Badger Setts. When asked why a “redacted” version that excluded sensitive information could not be produced it was agreed by the District Councillors that they would pass the request back to West Berkshire Council.

Draft Plan

At the last Steering Group meeting it was noted that some significant changes may be required following feedback from West Berkshire Council. The council have indicated that many of the “policies” that are currently included in the Draft Plan should not be included as they are already covered in other documents (Local Plan etc.).

This effectively removes most of the areas where a Neighbourhood Plan can influence the future development of the parish.

It would appear that the only areas left are Local Green Spaces and Site Design Brief.

A lengthy discussion took place about the fact that other Neighbourhood Plans, including Stratfield Mortimer (West Berkshire) have had their plans approved whilst having policies included that are being suggested, by West Berkshire Council, should not be included in the Tilehurst Neighbourhood Plan.

Alan and Peter will spend the next few weeks putting together a revised, more comprehensive, Site Design Brief and update the Draft Plan to include the updated Local Green Spaces appendix and Site Design Brief.

The updated Draft Plan will then be made available for review before the next Steering Group meeting.

It was agreed that Liz Alexander, Bell Cornwell, should be invited to a meeting to discuss the revised Draft Plan document.

Footpath across Pincents Hill

A brief discussion took place about a recognised/not recognised footpath across Pincents Hill as it has been mentioned recently by members of the public. Clive to follow up and provide feedback.

Steering Group Members:

- Lynda Chater (lynda.chater@tilehurstpcnp.org.uk)
- Peter Cross, Vice Chairperson (peter.cross@tilehurstpcnp.org.uk)
- Julia Gentle (julia.gentle@tilehurstpcnp.org.uk)
- Joan Lawrie (joan.lawrie@tilehurstpcnp.org.uk)
- Kevin Page, Chairperson (kevin.page@tilehurstpcnp.org.uk)
- Clive Taylor (clive.taylor@tilehurstpcnp.org.uk)
- Alan Wade (alan.wade@tilehurstpcnp.org.uk)
- Fred Williams (fred.williams@tilehurstpcnp.org.uk)

Meeting Schedule

- The schedule of meetings is now available on the website