

THORNDON INTO THE FUTURE

Minutes of meeting of the Thorndon Neighbourhood Plan Committee On Monday 10th September, 2018

Attendees:

Stephen Page, Chairman
John Jennings, Deputy Chairman
James Hayward, Parish Councillor
Gemma Burton
Pauline Smith

1.Apologies for absence: None

2.Matters Arising:

Minutes of meeting on 20th August 2018 were approved.

JH was thanked for putting article in Village Life describing what the committee is doing and requesting volunteers to help. Subsequent to publication of Village Life, no-one has come forward offering help. It was noted that this is the third time a request has been put in Village Life asking if people are interested in helping out with the Plan.

Prior to this meeting JJ had added more information to the plan draft to bring more in line with what MSDC were looking for and used their core strategy objectives and listed them in the final column of the document.

JH had spoken to Locality who will need to know exactly what we need from a consultant (if one is thought required) in order to apply for funding for this cost. JH discussed with the committee a suggestion from Glen Horn that we might wish to join with either Mendlesham (as we now come under the Mendlesham Ward as opposed to Wetheringsett previously) or Occold as they are too small to prepare a plan of their own. The committee could find no benefit from linking with either Mendlesham or Occold for our plan.

The committee discussed whether it was felt we need to use a consultant. JH had spoken with Glen Horn who had said we don't need to if we don't want to for the plan document but we definitely need one for the site assessment. Glen Horn reiterated that there is no official template available but that the Lawshall Plan was

a good “template” to use. It was noted that we need to mix and match between the 1998 plan and the new joint local plan as parts of the old plan will definitely go forward and some will not be relevant, but we need to work this out for ourselves.

Although the committee had been given some names of consultants by MSDC, it was agreed that the committee would prefer to use a local consultant. Prior to this meeting, names of various consultants were found by committee members. These were: Navigus Planning (Stradbroke Plan), Ben Elvin Planning Consultancy (ex MSDC/Babergh planning department), Martin Price, East Coast Planning Services (former head of planning Suffolk Coastal) and David Barker, Evolution Planning. . The firm that helped with the Lawshall Plan, which was the one seen as being a good example by MSDC Planning, is Ian Poole of Places4People. The committee felt that there was a better chance of the plan being accepted by MSDC if a consultant was used, and given the Places4People were involved with the Lawshall Plan, it was agreed that Ian Poole would be approached to have a meeting with the committee for an initial discussion.

Once a consultant has been decided on, a brief would need to be prepared and the document JJ has been working on should be forwarded to the consultant to see how much more time/cost the consultant would need to take this forward. This would be required to get project money from Locality.

JH stated that the committee would need to remain in control of the project rather than the consultant and we may need to get Microsoft Project for tracking purposes.

JJ went through the first section, Preparing the Neighbourhood Plan, of Appendix 1 to the Memorandum of Understanding. A lot of the tasks that the Parish Council needs to do under this section have already been completed by the committee. JJ suggested that before we do more work on this, we need to appoint the consultant.

4. AOB:

It was agreed that JH would contact Ian Poole and get a date when he can meet the committee and discuss if he is interested in being our consultant and what to do next. JH to e-mail committee members with date for meeting when he has contacted Mr. Poole.

4. Date of Next Meeting: TBD