Tollesbury Neighbourhood Plan

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Notes of the meeting of Tollesbury Neighbourhood Plan Committee held on Wednesday 24th May 2017 commencing at 7.30pm.



Present: Matthew Byatt (MB), Rob Crees (RC), Roger Lankester (RL), Simon Lewington (SL), Simon Plater (Chairman) and Andrew St Joseph (ASJ)

Admin: Michelle Curtis (MC)

Matthew Byatt, Rob Crees, Simon Plater, Steve O'Donnell, Claire Slodzik and Stevan Slodzik are members of Tollesbury Parish Council.

Andrew St Joseph is a District Councillor – Maldon District Council.

The meeting opened at 7.30pm.

There were 3 members of the public present.

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from David Hillyer, Gail Norton, Sue Palmer, Claire Slodzik, Steve Slodzik and Steve Smith.

The Chairman advised the Committee would be discussing the marine aspect of the Neighbourhood Plan during the meeting. The Committee will begin to put together policies and discuss how we should protect and develop the marine area.

2. Public Forums

The Chairman invited the 3 members of the public to join the Committee at the table and would welcome any comments from the public throughout the discussions.

3. Terms of Reference

The Chairman advised the amended Terms of Reference had been presented to the Parish Council for approval.

The Parish Council agreed to the Terms of Reference and the document was signed by Cllr Bell, Vice-Chairman.

A copy of the Terms of Reference was distributed to the Committee. The Committee accepted the Terms of Reference and the Chairman on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group signed them.

Action: Clerk to upload a copy of the Terms of References to the Parish Council website.

The Chairman advised the Parish Council were also happy with the proposed changes to the Scope of Works document. The Clerk had uploaded a copy of the document to the Parish Council website.

4. Neighbourhood Plan – Marine

Mr Lankester had prepared a document entitled Tollesbury Neighbourhood Plan – Draft Marine Section – dated 20th May 2017. The Clerk had distributed the document to the Committee members prior to the meeting.

Firstly, the Committee discussed the marine area and it was agreed that the area defined as 'marine' would include the industrial areas. It was felt the area could be used to encourage more leisure and marine activities.

The Chairman stated that if we wish to maintain the village, we will have to have controlled growth and can only give guidance.

The industrial area is changing with businesses requiring smaller units, possible live/work units. Various ideas were suggested for the industrial area i.e. live/work units, housing, caravan park, marine activities. Possible expansion of existing groups who could use the area to expand their activities.

The Committee wish to keep the viability of the marine area, encouraging visitors and other marine activities i.e. boarding, kayaking.

The Committee discussed the access issues along the waterway and felt it was important to encourage maintenance works to keep the channels clear. The waterway brings visitors to the village and also provides employment for the village. The issue with access is currently being addressed by the Tollesbury Harbour Project group who are working with various stakeholders. After any initial dredging regular maintenance work will be require to ensure the access is kept clear.

Maintenance of the flood defences was discussed and options how to provide protection. It was suggested a secondary wall could be built with a boating lake in between.

The Committee agreed the following draft policies:

POLICY M1

Tollesbury Parish Council will work with the public and a range of partners to better maintain a more attractive waterfront area for Tollesbury:

Formalise the walking routes and linking with other established walking routes around the village. Tollesbury Parish Council will support and work with Natural England to implement the coastal path.

POLICY M2

Tollesbury Parish Council will encourage maintenance of the seawall defences.

POLICY M3

Tollesbury Parish Council will work with partners to protect maintain and enhance the natural eco-system of the saltmarsh.

POLICY M4

Tollesbury Parish Council will work with partners to maintain, improve and protect both the deep water and other navigable channels, which provide access to all types of moorings associated with the village.

POLICY M5

Tollesbury Parish Council will encourage/support a variety of marine based activities and indirect uses such as live/work units, housing, leisure, tourism and retail activities.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee would be held on Wednesday 28th June 2017 commencing at 7.30pm to discuss Schools/Doctors and Rural Areas.

The meeting on the 28th June had been previously scheduled to discuss Housing, which will now be discussed at the meeting on Wednesday 26th July 2017.

Cllr St Joseph advised he had visited Wickham Bishops who recently had a housing scheme which included both properties for the open market and affordable housing and suggested it may be useful to see in terms of mixed accommodation. Cllr St Joseph stated he would be happy to facilitate a meeting should members wish to attend.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.