

# Wootton Rivers Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017

<b>Present:</b>	Cindy Creasy	Chair
	David Butler	Vice-Chair
	Dean Cowley	Councillor
	Nick Jones	Councillor
	Glenn Leech	Councillor
	Steve Rawlings	Councillor
	Anne Swift	Councillor
	Neil Worthington	Clerk

**Apologies:** None

## **1. Introduction**

This special meeting of the Parish Council had been called to in order to receive the Decision Statement on the Neighbourhood Development Plan from Wiltshire Council and agree on the documentation to be submitted prior to the Referendum process. Cindy Creasy welcomed all to the meeting.

## **2. Declarations of Interest and the granting of dispensations.**

Councillors were reminded of the Code for Conduct and the need to declare any interest relating to the items on the Agenda.

David Butler and Nick Jones both declared an interest in the boundary line of the Built Area Map which affected properties in which they had a pecuniary interest.

## **3. History of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.**

Dean Cowley summarised the long development of the NDP which had started over three years ago under Paul Neale's leadership, when a steering group headed by Tony McGarry had been sent up to produce the plan. The whole process had proved to be an excessively bureaucratic process not helped by having three different officers from Wiltshire Council providing guidance through the process. The major priority was to ensure that the views of the residents of the whole parish were represented. To achieve this extensive questionnaires were produced and a number of public meetings held. From these it was clear that the overriding priority for residents was to protect the environment. Once the NDP had been produced it was issued to interested parties for consultation and then submitted to the Independent Examiner for his review. His comments had now been received and the major item which required amendment was the inclusion of the West and East boundaries on the map of the village of Wootton Rivers which showed the extent of the Built Area.

## **4. Built Area Map.**

Cindy Creasy explained that the Built Area map had been deemed necessary by the Independent Examiner to define the area where development could take place, subject of course, to the provisions of the Core Strategy/NDP etc. The West/East map boundaries had been decided using the criteria set by the Wiltshire Council advisor and included the curtilage of property which related more closely to the

existing built environment or had limited capacity to extend the built form of the settlement in terms of scale and location. The boundary excluded the extended curtilage where it more closely related to the open countryside (eg a field or paddock) or had the capacity to substantially extend the built form of the settlement in terms of scale or location. The Independent Examiner had also recommended that the Recreation Ground should be included in within the boundary – but protected from development by its Green Space designation. The line of the boundary for most of the village had been obvious but wherever a doubt arose the boundary was inspected on site to ensure which criteria it met. Following the conclusion of this process the Steering Group agreed to recommend the final map to the Parish Council for approval.

All Parish Councillors were invited to comment on the map as proposed. All were content that the criteria had been consistently and correctly applied but David Butler expressed concern that parts of Church Farm and Noyes Farm lay partly outside the boundary. Cindy Creasy explained that following advice from Wiltshire they were excluded under the criteria that their inclusion would extend the built form of the settlement in terms of scale and location.

**The proposal was therefore put to the Parish Council that the Built Area map as tabled should be approved. A vote was taken and the proposal was unanimously approved. (Nick Jones and David Butler who had both declared an interest did not take part in this vote.)**

## **5. Decision Statement**

Cindy Creasy explained that Wiltshire Council have to issue the Decision Statement in which they confirm that they have considered the Independent Examiner's report and agree the NDP should proceed to the Referendum.

Although the official letter which should have been issued today has not yet been received the draft has been seen which confirms that the changes to be made to the plan are those of the Independent Examiner (which the SG and PC have seen) with some additional minor factual corrections.

**The proposal was therefore put to the Parish Council that, assuming the Decision Notice as received is not materially different from the draft copy, the NDP should be amended in line with the Decision Statement. A vote was taken and the proposal was unanimously approved.**

## **6. Conclusion**

The Steering Group would make the relevant changes required within the relevant time scales and submit the NDP to Wiltshire Council to proceed with the Referendum.

This long process was now nearing completion and all members of the Steering Group, who had worked tirelessly over the last three years, were thanked for their dedication and hard work.

**Date of the next meeting – 13th November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**