

Storrington, Sullington and Washington

Neighbourhood Plan

WASHINGTON

PARISH COUNCIL

Steering Group Meeting

The Chanctonbury Room, Parish Hall,
Thakeham Road, Storrington,

6.30 pm Tuesday 19th September 2023.

**Minutes**

**Present:** Storrington & Sullington Parish Councillors – Cllr Anna Worthington-Leese (Chairman of the Steering Group), Cllr Richard Jerman, Cllr Lisa Wheatley.

Washington Councillors –Cllr Patrick Heeley (Vice-Chairman of the Steering Group), Cllr Trevor Keech, Cllr Tony Lisher
Tracey Euesden (Clerk to Storrington & Sullington Parish Council)
Zoe Saville (Clerk to Washington Parish Council)

1. **Apologies for Absence.**

All Members were present and it was **NOTED** that Cllr, Keech had been appointed to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group at the annual meeting of Washington Parish Council.

**2. To Approve and sign the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Steering Group on 8th March 2022.**

The Minutes were duly **APPROVED** as being a correct record of the proceedings of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

**3. Horsham District Local Plan – To Consider approach to meeting with HDC representatives about sites included in the Plan.** Members noted that the following sites were being considered in previous iterations of the Local Plan:

* Land at Melton Drive.
* Field beyond Downsview
* Field Opposite Thakeham Tiles, Rock Road (Thakeham Parish).

It was not known at this point, whether the sites remain the latest version of the Plan but it is expected that this information will be shared at the upcoming meeting. Members expressed concerns at the lack of consultation with parishes and all Members **AGREED** that the Steering Group should take a firm stance against the methodology used by HDC Officers to assess the suitability of particular sites for development. Should HDC representatives indicate that the Local Plan will include sites that have been specifically rejected by the Steering Group it was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED:**

*That further action be taken by way of a formal complaint about the lack of consultation on sites and the apparent inconsistency of site assessments. Social media and press releases should also be drafted and distributed amongst the Steering Group for approval.*

**4. Storrington & Sullington and Washington Neighbourhood Plan: To Consider future validity of the Plan following HDC’s decision to approve DC/23/0701 – Old Clayton Boarding kennels, Storrington Road, Washington.** Members viewed the decision to approve this application as another example of inconsistency on the part of HDC where a very similar application had been refused earlier in the year. HDC Officers had cited a gap in the SSWNP Policy that allowed for this 60 bed Care Home and 8 age restricted bungalows to be approved despite the site being assessed as inappropriate for development in the Neighbourhood Plan site assessment process and by the Appeal Inspectorate when reviewing a decision to turn down development on that site in the past. Members felt that this recent decision to allow the application has adversely impacted upon the soundness of the Neighbourhood Plan and questioned whether it would protect the community against inappropriate development in the future.

**5. Any other business.**

Mrs Worthington-Leese raised the subject of how the sites chosen for inclusion in the Local Plan in neighbouring parishes will have a cumulative impact upon the infrastructure of Storrington. Whilst this issue had been raised with HDC, there did not appear to be any acknowledgement of the strain on the road network, Air Quality and service provision that extra homes will create. It was suggested that HDC should be reminded of these concerns and consideration should be given to allocating CIL funding to improve the infrastructure in Storrington to accommodate this extra pressure.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Signed: . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .. . Date: . . . . . . . . . . . . . . ..

Chairman