

The Special Meeting of the Parish Council was held this evening at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Cllrs Hunter (Chairman) (DH), Bradshaw (KB), Church (MC), Cossins (PC), Humphrys (JH), Norris (JN), Vass (AV), County Councillors Gordon Castle (GC) and Robbie Moore (RM) and Mrs Taylor (Parish Clerk) (ET).

**In attendance:** 6 members of the public were in attendance.

Monthly Parish Council Meeting Minutes	ACTION
<p><b>Public Questions:</b> GC hoped Councillors are encouraged by the confirmation that neighbourhood plans have much weight, when the independent planning inspector dismissed the Willowburn appeal by N'land Estates this week against a refusal by the planning committee to permit housing on a site allocated in the Alnwick Neighbourhood Plan for industrial use, quoting the plan as the major factor.</p>	
<p>1. <b>Apologies:</b> Cllr Knowles (Vice-Chairman) (DK), Hall (SJH) and Hodgson (AH).</p>	
<p>2. <b>Declarations of Interest:</b> None</p>	
<p>3. <b>Introduction and Thanks</b> DH noted that the NDP has been and continues to be a significant undertaking and commended the NDP Steering Group for all their hard work and effort. The PC has supported the process and the NDP Champions also deserve thanks and recognition for their hard work and effort. All have given a significant contribution and their time generously and it is to be noted and commended that parishioners opinions have been valued and are of value as demonstrated by the draft NDP. DH thanked SJH and Clive Church for their valuable contributions. And gave particular thanks to Pam Allen as Chair and JH as Secretary, both of whom have done an impressive job. DH acknowledged the vote of no confidence tabled against himself as Chair of the PC at the October PC meeting and confirmed this would be addressed at the November PC meeting. DH wished it to be noted that at the November meeting he would resign as Chair of the PC and also step down off the PC. DH had put himself forward as Chair when no one else wanted the role to ensure that the PC continued to function and move forward as a PC. He has enjoyed the role but finds that it is now time to move on.</p>	
<p>4. <b>Brief Overview of Tabled NDP</b> JH confirmed that a copy of the draft NDP had been circulated to the PC for review. A copy of the plans for the boundaries hadn't yet been circulated as they were with NCC for approval, but had been brought to the Special Meeting for the PC to view. JH advised that the NDP is a technical document setting out our objectives for planning development in the future for the Parish. It is written for planners and not for lay people. The policy references are included to show that the correct planning procedures and policies have been followed throughout the development of the plan. It needs to have more pictures of the locality showing settlement boundaries and points of reference and more descriptions of the area can also added. It is based on the 2009 Parish Plan but also on the housing needs survey and the public consultations carried out. The boundaries has been set tight to the village (and to include the 39 houses that have already got planning permission). Lesbury is listed under NCC as having zero rating development and Lesbury has already had more development than that. However, Lesbury is not against development but in a way that the parish wants ie small scale and which meets the needs of residents. It maybe therefore that Lesbury</p>	

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	<p>looks at the possibility of community-led housing in the future where the rent is controlled and therefore affordable.</p> <p>Pam Allen confirmed the NDP is the best defence to give the parish some say over what happens in the parish. The NDP Steering Group is requesting that the PC endorse the way the the NDP is going and to give an agreement in principle. There is more work to be done but the NDP Steering Group wish to get the plan as tight as possible and well on the way to completion when the consultations start with NCC and residents of the parish. Pam Allen confirmed the draft would take in comments and pu them into the NDP between now and the consultation.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>PC to Vote on the Parish Council Adopting the proposed Draft NDP</b></p> <p>DH requested a show of hands from the PC who supported the trajectory of the NDP as it stands noting the caveat from Pam Allen that amends can be made to the NDP between now and submission for consultation.</p> <p>Before the vote, PC wished to ask some questions: he first enquired about the extent of consultation with the PC over the content of the draft NDP. JH advised this had been done by regular reports to the PC at the monthly meeting together with the sharing of NDP minutes with the PC. Also, all PC were welcome to have attended the public meetings. PC enquired why there was no development at all for the village as this helped ensure viability and longevity and brought in new people and were we happy at restricting development to the 39 homes? JH advised development had been set at zero by NCC for Lesbury but that the NDP wasn't adverse to development. PC also enquired why there was no direct mention of N'land Estates as they were the major landowner. Pam Allen advised meetings had been held with both N'land Estates and Chris Whitfield, who were the two major landowners in the parish, and copies of the notes of those meetings were logged and available. AV advised the NDP was an important negotiating tool for development. GC advised that whilst the NCC Local Plan and the Lesbury NDP were still both in draft they both now carried some weight for any planning applications submitted at the moment and planning officers and the planning committee would be influenced by them in any decisions they had to make; therefore even in draft they carried some weight. PC enquired why there was no mention about business development in the NDP. JH advised the NCC Local Plan did not identify Lesbury for industrial or economic development and therefore there is no mention either in the NDP. Conversations had been held with all the main sources of employment (school, coal yard, Hawkhill Industrial Estate) but that the main business in the village is either tourism or people working from home as the majority of people commute out of Lesbury for work.</p> <p>With no further questions, DH then called for the PC to vote. 6 Councillors voted yes, in favour of the draft NDP as tabled. 1 Councillor voted no, against the NDP as tabled. The majority vote was therefore for the draft NDP to be adopted and the Council supported the trajectory of the NDP as it stands noting the caveat from Pam Allen that amends can be made to the NDP between now and submission for consultation and the motion to support the draft NDP was passed. DH thanked the NDP Steering Group again for their work and effort on the draft NDP.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Close of Meeting</b></p> <p>The meeting concluded at 8.00pm.</p>	

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