

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF GORING ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL
Bellême Room, Goring Village Hall 7.30pm Thursday 5 April 2018

Members Present:

Chairman	Kevin Bulmer (KB)
Vice Chairman	John Wills (JW)
Members	Catherine Hall (CH)
	David Brooker (DB)
	Mary Bulmer (MBu)
	Bryan Urbick (BU)
	Matthew Brown (MBr)
	Emrhys Barrell (EB)

Officers Present:

Clerk	Colin Ratcliff (CR)
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Approx. 36 members of the public and press

18/45 Opening statement

KB stated the meeting was being held to decide whether to submit the NP to SODC. Should it be submitted there would be further opportunity for comment during SODC's consultation period and it would also be examined by an Inspector prior to Referendum where a decision would be made by electors in the village. He said GPC had held a number of internal meetings to go over the draft with the NPSG to thrash out any issues councillors had.

18/46 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Lawrie Reavill (LR)

18/47 To receive any declarations of interests

None

18/48 Public Forum

Nigel Gilson read a statement on behalf of the NPSG – appended to minutes.

Derek Jones said that SODC had put on hold their Local Plan 2033 so the target for housing no longer exists. He suggested the NP should also therefore be put on hold until a new Local Plan is published.

KB said he could clarify that nothing other than strategic sites were being reconsidered and it had been put back for reconsideration, not on hold. The target numbers had not been altered.

Andy Best said that the proposed GNP6 access road cuts straight across the AONB and high part of the hill and would be visible from a distance. He was aware screening is proposed but was unsure it would be effective. The road would open up areas for future development and change the character of the village. He said there were other options via Springhill Road and there was no evidence to show why that could not be used. A consultant had been commissioned to look at that option and believed it to be feasible.

Jack Calder said the NP response to comments had not addressed GNP3 flood risk. The Environment Agency said it must pass a sequential test and he argued that it didn't. The NP treat passing by limiting to the Goring area quoting SODC that it is disproportionate to apply across the whole local authority area. He said that was contrary to national guidelines. He suggested the planning authority should advise the NP of sites outside the flood area suitable for development. Instead of accepting SODC's advice that is contrary to national policy GPC should find it inconsistent and not accept it.

Signed:

K. Bulmer

Dated: 14 May 2018

Secondly that the NP make a great play of the AONB conservation. There had been two planning appeals on GNP3 both of which found harm to the AONB outweighed development despite having the Kirkham report which had the same conclusions as the Bramhill report. The NPSG had taken advice from SODC and a letter received saying the appeals could be ignored if GNP3 was chosen as part of a NP. He noted a Planning Inspector on the West Oxon Local Plan said four sites in the AONB should be withdrawn saying they can only be considered as part of specific planning applications.

Sarah Jane Dexter commented she had been refused a request by developers to see mitigation proposed as part of the second supplementary Bramhill report. KB said that whatever developers propose in detail is not part of a NP, the NP notes what mitigation would be required, and the developer's proposal how to meet it wouldn't appear until a planning application is made. She also said the developer had engaged consultants regarding the junction at Wallingford Road and asked if that would be made available. KB said that at a planning application stage it would go to OCC Highways for comment. She also raised street lighting being visible on the crest. KB again said the detail would be part of a planning application.

Richard McNeil said that the road being in the plan implies the village accept it and all that goes with it including the lighting, it being something that might compromise the whole plan and that having an alternative would be useful.

18/49 To consider whether the draft Goring Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents – as amended following Regulation 14 (Village) Consultation, should be submitted under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 to South Oxfordshire District Council.

KB formally proposed the motion, seconded by MBr.

BU thanked all those present for coming and assured them that there had been many separate discussions within GPC.

He believed the NP was good enough but not perfect. The site specific requirements are measures by which Planning Officers will make decisions. Trying to take everyone's views on board was difficult and that the housing need may be greater than the 94 proposed. He encouraged everyone to put their thoughts to the consultation and examination to follow.

MBr noted this is version 1; there would be a version 2 and there is a need to move on. Something was needed soon to stop developers taking cavalier actions

KB said GPC would have an opportunity to see all planning applications and compare the detail to the NP.

JW agreed with BU and MBr, he thought the NPSG had done a really good job despite there being parts he didn't like and neighbours to sites also felt the same.

CH said the plan was not perfect but that it needs to go on to the next stage. She stated the examiner is equivalent to an appeals process so it would be useful to see what he/she might say.

Resolved: That the motion be carried.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2000 hrs.

Abbreviations (where used):

GPC	Goring on Thames Parish Council
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
NPSG	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Signed:

K. Bulmer

Dated: 14 May 2018

OCC Oxfordshire County Council
SODC South Oxfordshire District Council

Signed:

K. Bulmer

Dated: 14 May 2018