

Notes of the meeting held in the pavilion on Tuesday 31st January 2014 in respect of a neighbourhood plan for Newton Poppleford & Harpford Parish, including Northmostown, Venn Ottery and Southerton

The meeting was chaired by Mark Sanders, Chair of the Parish Council. He introduced Cllr Rob Longhurst from Lympstone Parish Council who was Chairman of the Lympstone steering group and acted as Chairman for the whole process.

The clerk advised the meeting that due to the fact that it had been agreed to hold such a meeting and that no Officer from EDDC could be provided at this time he had sought the help of Cllr Longhurst. The Clerk read to those present the requirement of how to proceed which was sent to Parish Councils. It was made clear that Application had to be notified to EDDC before starting the process. (Copy attached).

Cllr Longhurst produced a Briefing document, "The Way forward" and the Clerk was asked to produce copies for interested parties to assist if there was agreement to proceed. It was made clear that a Neighbourhood Plan carried more weight than a Village plan (which in our case he considered to be an excellent Document, which could be easily translated into the Neighbourhood plan. He congratulated those responsible for putting it together). He further added that the District Council had to take a Neighbourhood Plan on board and refer to it in decision making, it also had the Law behind it, bearing in mind it had to take in National, County, and District policies. (It was still a top down exercise, not a bottom up one as he considered would be more appropriate). He further explained that Lympstone had jumped the gun by starting down the road ahead of the Districts consideration and had run into problems, however EDDC were now progressing to use the outcome as a Template for other Parishes to follow. Lympstone had started in 2012 and were now awaiting final clearance by them which would then be presented in a referendum carried out by the District Council.

It was also made clear that neighbouring parishes should be alerted to the matter, so that they were informed. The Plan should be sponsored by the Parish Council and the neighbourhood clearly defined. The major Land owners, should also be involved, two to four Parish Cllrs should be on the steering group, but it should not be the Parish Council as a whole. Cllr Longhurst considered that outside professional assistance was required, it was also most important to have an Editor. Planning experience was also needed, in the form of a Strategic Planner, who understands the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). An Archivist was required and good English and a conciseness was required for clarity. A need also had to be demonstrated and the General Public must see the whole plan. He further stressed the need for a paid Facilitator and that "deep pockets" were required. It was noted that in Cllr Lyndhurst's view the process could take up to two years to complete. He advised taking a look on the Internet at other areas of the Country and highlighted an area in Oxfordshire namely "Thame Town Council". Funding was in the order of over £5000-00 and to this end EDDC claimed the £ 5000-00 from the Government but which only passed £2000-00 to the Parish Council, other Grant Aid was

available , overall cost could be in the region of £ 7,000-00, to cover Draft production, Travel, Paper, Hall hire, Consultancy etc.

Cllr Longhurst referred to a specific Site in Lympstone which was delicate as it was opposite the Church, he made a point of Chinese whispers as apposed to clear facts and that one must work with EDDC, they had met with EDDC, on at least 6 occasions. It was also noted that the formula used by EDDC set out clearly that 40 houses were to be established in Lympstone, he also added that in his opinion there should be provision for more Elderly persons bungalows allowed for, as well as young persons Affordable ones.

Various questions were asked and answers given, Cllr Longhurst explained how the SHLAA process was carried out in Lympstone using colour coding, in line with Districts consideration of the Formula of between 400-600 metres from shops, school etc. He further made the point that due to the length of the village not all areas could meet that requirement. (it being noted that sites not as near could also be considered if drainage etc were satisfactory).He also made the point that anyone with an interest in any particular site could not take part and highlighted particular instances of persons living nearby. It was further noted that it was not just a Development Plan but all aspects of Village life were included such as Environment, Transport, Housing, Recreation, Community, Older people etc. It was further considered that the twenty year Plan would be reviewed on a regular basis(may be five yearly).This is where the Focus groups come into play. Internet speed was also raised as a major concern and any new Developments should have the necessary ability to give the fastest speeds required these days,. It was further noted that Developers can challenge the plan. Lympstone notified 125 different organizations including all public bodies and all Land owners. Cllr Longhurst again referred to the Newton Poppleford Village Plan document as being in his view a very good Document, noting that some people would never agree to some parts, but that Lympstone's case carried on changing some of the points raised at the Draft stages. It was noted that if the Government was to change in 2015 the whole matter could yet again be changed to yet another new concept. in local Planning matters.

It was agreed that the next stage was to have the matter on the next Parish Council Agenda, on the 24th February 2014, to decide whether to carry out the exercise and to set up a Steering Group with invitations to people with a declared particular expertise to become involved, but it was a time commitment over a long period. On a vote of those present it was unanimously agreed to consider further. A hearty vote of thanks was given by the Chairman with Applause for Cllr Longhurst's presentation and patience with answering questions.

The Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.