



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE, HIGH STREET, CHINNOR, OX39 4DH COMMENCING AT 10.00AM AND CONCLUDING AT 12.00 PM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Member	Appointing Body
Appointed by Local Authorities	
Cllr Brian Norman	Three Rivers District Council
Cllr Chris Richards	Aylesbury Vale District Council
Cllr Jeremy Ryman	Chiltern District Council
Cllr Alan Walters	South Buckinghamshire District Council

Appointed by the Secretary of State	
Bettina Kirkham	Secretary of State
Helen Tuffs	Secretary of State

Elected by Parish Councils	
Cllr Margaret Jarrett	Hertfordshire
Cllr Barbara Wallis	Buckinghamshire

Others present- Co-opted members	
Gill Gowing	Strategic Planning Advisor to the Chiltern Society
Mike Stubbs	The National Trust
Officers	
Colin White	Chilterns Conservation Board
Others	
Deirdre Hansen	Minute taker

One member of the public was present: Bill Storey.

The Chair noted that her appointment to the Board would be ending soon and that this was the last Planning Committee meeting she would be chairing. She thanked all members for their contributions. She had very much enjoyed working with everyone and being part of this committee.

125. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mike Fox (Chairman of the Board), Cllr David Barnard (North Herts District Council) and John Willson (co-opted member, Secretary of State)

126. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

127. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 27th November 2013 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

128. Matters Arising from the minutes

Item 121: The Planning Officer reported that the Vale of Aylesbury Plan had been withdrawn.

10.10 Helen Tuffs arrived.

129. Public Question time

One member of the public was present but no questions were asked.

130. High Speed 2

The Planning Officer updated the Committee about the latest developments in connection with a possible high speed rail route through the Chilterns.

The Committee was informed about the: rejection of the Supreme Court appeal; likelihood of an appeal to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee and a complaint to the European Commission and probably the European Court of Justice; ongoing work on the Board's response to the Environmental Statement; possible timetable for the parliamentary process; likelihood of the Board submitting a petition that would deal primarily with a fully bored tunnel, and recent blocking of the Major Project Authority report rating HS2 as amber/red. Members were encouraged to write to their MP's requesting the report to be published in full.

1. The Committee NOTED the report.

131. AONB Management Plan Review.

The Planning Officer informed the Committee about the latest developments in connection with the emerging 2014-2019 Management Plan.

The Plan is nearing completion following a period of public consultation. Final changes are being made and will be discussed at a Member working group on 26th February. The Board meeting in January had received a summary of the key issues and likely changes that would ensue. Final approval of the Plan will be considered at the Board meeting on 25th March and the reviewed Management Plan would be published in April 2014.

1. The Committee NOTED the report.

2. **The Members of the Committee RESOLVED to inform the Chief Officer if they wish to attend the working group meeting on 26th February 2014.**
3. **The Committee NOTED the programme for the production of the Management Plan 2014-19.**

132. Events

The Planning Officer provided feedback from recent events and sought approval of the details for the forthcoming events.

Feedback from recent events:

1. AONB Planning Forum on 5th December 2013: this had been attended by seven of the Chilterns Planning Authorities, The Board, the Chiltern Society, the Environment Agency and Natural England. The Forum discussed the Management Plan review, the HS2 Environmental Statement and Hybrid Bill, the Board's draft position statement on renewable energy and the possible AONB boundary review. Comments made on the topics discussed have been fed into the Management Plan and the renewable energy position statement.

Forthcoming events:

1. AONB Planning Forum - It was proposed that the next AONB Planning Forum takes place in mid-May. Dates would be circulated via a Doodle poll. It is intended that the Forum should discuss: the endorsement of the adopted AONB Management Plan; the latest position in connection with HS2; the draft Conservation Board position statement on telecommunications; and any update in connection with the possible AONB boundary review.
2. Parish and Town Council planning training 2014 - The following dates for the training events were proposed: 23rd June, 1st and 3rd July. A number of village halls will be investigated as venues. It had been discussed how the Board reacts to and monitors the loss of local facilities like shops and pubs. In order to try and gather information a questionnaire has been devised, which will be circulated to Town and Parish councils prior to the training sessions. The Committee provided comments on this, which the Planning Officer will incorporate.
3. AONB Planning Conference 2014 - The planning conference is to take place on Wednesday 8th October. The Committee's initial thoughts on venues, topics and speakers were welcomed.

1. **The Committee NOTED the feedback from the AONB Planning Forum.**
2. **The Committee NOTED and APPROVED the arrangements for the forthcoming Planning Forum.**

3. **The Committee NOTED and APPROVED the arrangements for the forthcoming Parish and Town Council training and, subject to changes, APPROVED the proposed questionnaire for circulation.**
4. **The Committee provided the Planning Officer with suggestions in connection with the AONB Planning Conference for 2014.**

133. Conservation Board Position Statements

The Planning Officer informed the Committee about progress in connection with the renewable energy position statement which had been subject to consultation from November to January and had been adopted at the January Board meeting. Final changes are to be made once the Management Plan is adopted.

The Planning Officer sought thoughts about the draft content of the position statement on telecommunications. This should seek to replicate other position statements and should include a series of sections as detailed in the report.

The Committee considered the key topics and made suggested alterations and additions which will be incorporated by the Planning Officer. The draft document will be prepared and reported to the next Board meeting, when approval will be sought.

11.25 Alan Walters left the meeting.

1. **The Committee NOTED the progress made in connection with the draft renewable energy position statement**
2. **The Committee PROVIDED suggestions for any additions or alterations to the content of the draft telecommunications position statement**

134. Development Plan Responses

The Planning Officer informed the Committee about, and sought approval for, the responses that have been sent in and made under delegated powers in connection with the public consultation exercises on the following development plan documents: Central Bedfordshire Council: Draft Design Guide; Chalfont St Peter Parish Council: Draft Chalfont St Peter Neighbourhood Plan; Henley and Harpsden Parish Councils: Joint Neighbourhood Plan sustainability scoping report.

1. **The Committee NOTED and APPROVED the responses already made on behalf of the Board in connection with the consultation exercises on the developments plan documents as detailed above.**

135. Planning Applications Update

The Planning Officer informed the Committee about, and sought approval for, the responses that had been made under delegated powers in connection with the planning applications, appeals and a number of previous cases that have been determined as detailed in the appendix.

Since April last year the Board has been consulted on 110 applications and has responded to most of these. There have been 19 formal responses so far this year.

The Committee noted that for 2013/14 69% of applications had been decided in line with the Board recommendations. The situation will continued to be monitored

- 1. The Committee NOTED and APPROVED the responses made in connection with the applications as listed.**

136. Appointment of acting Chairman.

The completion of the Bettina Kirkham’s appointment leaves the position of Chairman vacant until the meeting following the AGM. Filling the position was discussed and a number of Members said they would be willing to take on the position of Acting Chairman until the AGM.

- 1. The Committee NOTED the interest expressed in taking on the position of Acting Chairman until the AGM.**

137. Any urgent business

There was no urgent business.

138. Date of Next and Future Meetings

Next meeting: Wednesday 14th May 2014 at the Lodge, 90 Station Road, Chinnor OX39 4HA.

Future meetings: Wednesday 10th September and 26th November 2014.

The Chairman.....

Date.....