

Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Plan – Steering Group meeting

On Wednesday 6th April, the first meeting of the Little Birch and Aconbury Steering group was held at the village hall.

Cllr Elaine Godding was in the Chair to welcome every one who attended – 15 people, with representatives from both Parishes. John Jones was then elected as the Acting Chair for the group, and he took over the Chairing of the meeting.

It was clarified that the Steering Group would work under the same Standing Orders as the Parish Council, and the members of the steering group will have copies of these sent to them in the coming weeks.

Sophie Glover the Little Birch Parish Council Clerk was appointed to Clerk for the steering group, and any one wishing to raise any questions about the Neighbourhood Plan, or the steering group are welcome to contact her on the details below. The Clerk would also be the Steering Groups Responsible Finance Officer, and she will be assisted in this role by Margaret Scrivens.

The Parish Council had asked the Clerk to complete the papers to ‘designate the Neighbourhood Plan area’, part of this required her to put the name of the area, and the Steering Group confirmed that it was to be called the Little Birch and Aconbury Neighbourhood Plan. The form was signed by the Little Birch Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Mike Morley, and Roger Wilkens from Aconbury.

The clerk was asked to source three consultants to assist the Steering Group in compiling the Neighbourhood Plan, it was decided to ask them to tender for the role, and that interested parties would then be invited to an ‘interview’ with some members of the Steering Group. It was hope that all of this would be achieved by the end of April.

Funding of the plan was discussed, and the meeting was informed by the Clerk that the funding that was currently available had to be used with in 6 months of it being granted. It was suggested that the grant should not be applied for until a consultant was ready to be engaged, so that the group would have the maximum time to use it.

Any one from either Little Birch or Aconbury who is interested in joining the steering group should contact the Clerk on littlebirchpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk or ring her on 01432 270499.