

Holt Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Minutes of the Meeting held via Zoom
Wednesday 6 May 2026 at 2.30 pm

Present: Kate Learoyd, Joy Bloomfield, Tracey Dunn, David Hind, Bob Chequer, Nigel Fox, Steve Siddall, Vaughan Thompson (planning consultant, Place Studio)

Apologies: Lisa Wickes, Sarah Pettitt, Martin Moyes

1. Election of Chairman for the Meeting

In accordance with the governance procedure, Kate Learoyd was elected Chair for the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Noted – Lisa Wickes, Sarah Pettitt and Martin Moyes.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and matters arising were noted.

4. Report on Issues with Wiltshire Local Plan and HNP Strategy

Vaughan Thompson provided an update on the withdrawal of the Wiltshire Local Plan. The Plan had been rejected by the Inspectors and Wiltshire Council had agreed to withdraw it entirely. Members noted that all related documentation would be removed from Wiltshire Council websites following the statutory withdrawal process.

The implications for Holt were discussed. Members noted that Wiltshire would now prepare a new Local Plan, expected to be adopted in 2029. In the interim, planning decisions would be based on the existing Core Strategy, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and neighbourhood plans.

The Steering Group considered two options:

- Pause the Neighbourhood Plan review until the new Wiltshire Local Plan is adopted.
- Continue with the review and complete an updated Neighbourhood Plan based on current community priorities and the NPPF.

Following discussion, the Steering Group unanimously agreed to continue with the review. Members considered that delaying until 2029 would risk losing momentum and leave the existing plan increasingly out of date. It was also noted that a completed review would strengthen the policy framework available to support planning decisions in Holt.

Vaughan agreed to provide a first review of revised policies during May.

5. Survey – Review of Community Engagement Work

David Hind reported on progress with the community questionnaire. More than 200 responses had been received.

Analysis of the responses was continuing, with final work to be completed following the clerk's return. The Steering Group discussed the process for translating community feedback into planning issues, objectives, tasks and evidence to support future policies.

David and Vaughan will prepare a draft package of objectives, tasks and policies for consideration by the Steering Group later in May.

Members agreed that a community workshop should be organised in late summer or early autumn to present findings and seek further feedback from residents.

Tracey requested access to transport-related survey responses to support work on school travel planning. David agreed to provide the available data.

6. Green Spaces

David provided an update on the Local Green Space (LGS) review.

The Steering Group considered a shortlist of priority sites for possible designation as Local Green Spaces within the revised Neighbourhood Plan. Members discussed the need to engage constructively with landowners and to ensure that all sites met the relevant designation criteria.

Steve and David will continue discussions with landowners regarding potential designations. It was noted that Wiltshire Wildlife Trust had offered assistance with ecological assessment work and that further discussions would take place regarding support for the evidence base. David and Kate will review the selection criteria and assessment process, and the Local Green Space subgroup will be reconvened to agree a final shortlist.

7. Traffic and Highways Issues

Members discussed transport and highway matters arising from the community survey. Tracey agreed to review the transport responses and identify key themes and issues for consideration within the revised Plan.

The Steering Group noted that traffic, parking and road safety continued to feature prominently in community feedback and would require further policy consideration.

8. Local Heritage Assets

Joy Bloomfield provided an update on work to identify local heritage assets.

Members discussed opportunities to expand the existing list of heritage assets and to recognise buildings, structures and features that contribute to Holt's historic character but are not currently designated.

Members were asked to submit suggestions for potential heritage assets to Joy for further investigation.

Kate suggested repeating a previous village survey exercise involving photographs of important local features to support evidence gathering.

9. Potential Assistance to Steering Group from Centre for Sustainable Energy

Members considered an offer of support from the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

It was agreed that the Steering Group should accept the offer of free assistance and Vaughan agreed to make the necessary introductions.

10. Any Other Business

Members noted the opportunity to engage with Wiltshire Council's forthcoming Local Plan scoping consultation and agreed that this would be an important opportunity to influence future planning policy affecting Holt.

11. Date of Next Meeting and Preferred Method of Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place later in May at David Hind's house. Kate will circulate possible dates to members.

Actions:

- Vaughan Thompson to provide a first review of revised policies during May.
- David Hind and Vaughan Thompson to prepare draft objectives, tasks, evidence and policies

for Steering Group review.

- David Hind to provide transport survey data to Tracey Dunn.
- David Hind to complete final analysis of questionnaire responses.
- Steering Group to organise a community workshop in late summer/early autumn.
- Steve Siddall and David Hind to engage with priority Local Green Space landowners.
- Steve Siddall to meet Angela Harrington regarding her land.
- David Hind and Kate Learoyd to review Local Green Space selection criteria and assessment methodology.
- David Hind to reconvene the Local Green Space subgroup.
- Joy Bloomfield to continue research into potential heritage assets.
- Steering Group members to submit heritage asset suggestions to Joy Bloomfield.
- Vaughan Thompson to arrange engagement with the Centre for Sustainable Energy.
- Kate Learoyd to circulate dates for the next meeting.