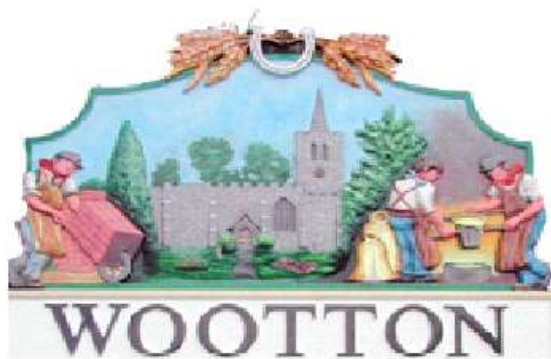




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Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting held on Wednesday 18th January 2017 at 8pm in The Hub, Wootton New Life Methodist Church, Cause End Road.

Present	Gareth Lloyd (in the chair - GL), Gerald Bygraves (GB), Sandra Jackson (SJ), Paul Quirk (PQ) and John Wheeler (JW). JW is also the Borough Councillor for Wootton. In attendance: Sue Playford (SP) as Clerk to the Council.		
Absent (no apologies received)			
Agenda no	Agenda item title	Resolution	Action
NP17/01	Apologies for absence. Stacey Gittens (SG) and Bob Wallace (BW).	Resolved to accept.	SP to keep on file.
NP17/02	Disclosure of local and/or disclosable pecuniary interests. None.	N/A.	N/A.
NP17/03	To consider any dispensation requests received by the Clerk in relation to local and/or disclosable pecuniary interests, not previously recorded. None.	N/A.	N/A.
NP17/04	To appoint Cllr Bob Hensher as a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.	Resolved to appoint Cllr Bob Hensher as a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Proposed: GL. Seconded: JW. Resolved by all present.	SP to take forward.

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NP17/05	Minutes of the previous meeting. <i>Minutes are published on the Wootton Parish Council website:</i> http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk/ . Members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering group are asked to receive and adopt the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering group meeting held on 21 st September 2016.	Resolved to receive and adopt. Proposed: GB. Seconded: JW. Resolved by all present.	SP to keep on file.
NP17/06	To receive a report from Cllr Lloyd regarding previous recommendations made by this Steering Group.	None.	N/A.
NP17/07	To consider all tender applications and to make recommendation to Full Council as necessary.	GL stated only one tender application had been received – possibly due to the complexity of the tender document and limited budget. GL confirmed the budget had been increased to £30k following recent precept discussions at Full Council. Concerns were raised over a lack of competition given only one application had been received – it was recognised this committee would need help (including a professional planner) to ensure a robust plan was put in place which would withstand scrutiny by Bedford Borough Council (BBC) and referendum. Time to consult and collate questionnaire responses alone would be considerable and it was essential any such plan sat alongside BBC's draft Local Plan 2035 and had scope for additional housing (regardless of housing proposals elsewhere within the Borough). After further discussion it was agreed the one applicant (Regeneration Positive) be invited to attend the next committee meeting (to be held on 22 nd February 2017 in place of a Leisure & Amenities committee meeting). SP confirmed she had followed due process during the tender process, having written to seven	BH and SP to take forward.

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		companies in total – this could be demonstrated should a query arise over (potentially) accepting the only application. It was noted this committee would make recommendation only to Full Council – the final decision on appointment rested with Full Council. BH agreed to approach Regeneration Positive, extending an invitation for 22nd February 2017.	
NP17/08	To consider any further appropriate course of action(s) with regard to the appointment of a professional individual/organisation to oversee production of the Neighbourhood Plan and to make recommendation to Full Council as necessary.	No further appropriate courses of action were considered.	N/A.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

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