

**Minutes of Meeting held on Feb 28th 2025, Village Hall, Toddington 19.00hrs, to discuss the formation of a Steering Group with the intent to progress the development a Neighbourhood Plan for Toddington.**

**MEETING ONE**

**Present:**

Steve Killinger - Resident and Parish Councillor (SK)  
Tony Collins - Resident and Parish Councillor (TC)  
Neil Buthee - Resident (NB)  
Kate Russell - Resident (KR)  
John Russell - Resident (JR)  
Lorraine Ward - Resident (LW)  
Tony Williams - Resident (TW)  
Tom Chevalier - Resident (TCh)  
Russell Aston - Maulden Parish Councillor (RA)

**Absent:**

David Stacey - Resident and Parish Councillor (DS)

An AGENDA was circulated prior to the Meeting, and the meeting was Chaired by SK.

The purpose of the meeting was to listen to a verbal presentation given by Mr Russell Aston, a resident of Maulden Parish Council with direct and recent experience of writing a successfully adopted Neighbourhood Plan (NP), and to facilitate a question and answer session with RA to enable those present to take a decision as to whether they wished to form a Steering Group with the intention of writing a NP for Toddington, and progressing through to full Adoption of the Plan by end 2027.

SK explained that the Parish Council had allocated some funding for the upcoming year 2025/26 from the Precept. It was hoped that the SG would be able to obtain some Grant Funding from recognised sources but in the event that was not possible would review it's financial commitment in the following years and seek to support the ongoing work of the SG from its financial reserves - fully recognising the value of a NP and offering its full support. Minutes of the PC Meetings held in November and December 2024 and January 2025 are available as evidence of PC discussions and decisions in this regard.

There was a lengthy period of questions and answers/exchange of views, and an opportunity to review the most recent attempt made by Toddington to deliver a NP - which unfortunately did not achieve full adoption (2012-18). RA was able to explain the value to the community of having a NP in place - namely to try and preserve the values and characteristics of the village and surrounding environs, influence the extent and types of development the community would support, protect and enhance Green spaces, influence and seek to develop key infrastructure, job opportunities, education, welfare and transport.

After discussing the topic at length RA left the meeting.

Those remaining continued discussions and concluded it would be a good initiative to progress. With that decision made the assembled agreed that JR would Chair the SG going forward and SK would take the role as Secretary to the SG.

SK suggested that the SG should try and meet before the PC Meeting of 11th March 2025 to develop Terms of Reference (ToR) and immediate next steps, including the formation of Sub Groups with the

responsibility to develop the Activity Streams and who will need to cover the administrative requirements of their work.

The meeting concluded at 20.45hrs.