

MINUTES

MEETING OF COOKHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING PARTY – LARGE LANDOWNERS SUB GROUP MEETING

THURSDAY 18 NOV 2021 AT 5.30PM at COMMUNITY ROOM, COOKHAM LIBRARY

PRESENT:

CLlr Bill Perry (“WJP”) (Chairman) (Cookham Parish Council)

CLlr Chris Doyle (“CD”) (Cookham Parish Council)

CLlr Mark Howard (“MH”) (Cookham Parish Council) Arrived at 5.50pm

Lars Ahlgren (“LA”) (WildCookham)

Dick Scarff (“DS”) (Cookham Society)

Nic Dawkes (“ND”) (Save Cookham)

Tanya Copas (Copas Partnership)

James and Richard Copas (Copas Farms)

Tim Crauford (National Trust)

Peter Prior (Summerlease)

Mark Loveday, a member of the public

Nina Milner (“NM”) (CNPWP Administrator)

1.	Apologies for meeting absences	Actions
	Chris Brown (White Place Farm) Suzanne Bailey (JL/Odney) Dr Shez Courtney-Smith (“SCS”) (Trustee of Stanley Spencer Gallery)	
2.	General Summary	
	The hybrid aspect of the meeting was not a great success. Jon and Nina were able to hear little. This needs to be noted for future attempts. The major function of the meeting was mutual information. WJP briefed the group on the process and the current position. The landowners’ representatives now understand where the Working Party (“the WP”) is in the process. WJP indicated that this sub-group should meet again the discuss how to mesh their specific suggestions into the Plan once we have a first draft of the Plan, which it was hoped would be early next year.	

	<p>James Copas will explore and let the WP know the views of Commoners. He will probably talk to David Matthews for this purpose (David Matthews not having been very specific about Commoners interests when WJP spoke to him earlier in the process.)</p> <p>The difference in perspective between Commoners and farmers was apparent. There are ever fewer people wanting to use rights of common for animals, which are not economic. They and the National Trust may thus be open to a 'green landscape' strategy.</p> <p>James also promised to provide [and has done] contact details for the Newmans, who he believes are still owners of Grange Farm, so we can invite them to the next meeting.</p> <p>Those invited were grateful to be involved, and understood the position. They had no pressing views to advance beyond the submissions they have already made. They are looking forward to detailed discussion of those contributions when we next meet.</p> <p>There was some discussion of the future of farming in Cookham. Broadly speaking, the landowners' views are that (though much will depend on the new 'post-Brexit' support system which is not yet fully articulated) it is necessary to farm intensively, for arable, a significant part of any land in this area if farming is to be financially worthwhile at all. Much of the rest of the land is inferior grade, probably most useful for equine purposes and turkeys. Sheep are probably not currently viable here; cattle are decreasingly so (see para. 8 re Commoners).</p> <p>James and Richard told us that BLP designated development site AL37 is now for planning purposes fully in the hands of Bellway, the developers who have the option to purchase it. They/Copas Farms no longer have substantial influence over it.</p> <p>We now therefore await the first draft of the Plan.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>No AOB raised.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Date/time of next meeting</p> <p>To be confirmed once a first draft of the Plan has been received and the WP asks this sub-group to reconvene.</p>	