

MINUTES OF MEETING NO 10 OF THE BOURTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP HELD AT 18 MILL RISE AT 7.30pm ON WEDNESDAY 17th APRIL 2013

Present: M Withers, P Withers, P Overington, G Overington, A Scott, D Scott, N Hall.

Apologies: C Price.

Prior to the start of the formal meeting, the Chairman recorded that Louise Shepherd had resigned from the group. This was for personal reasons but a contributory factor had been an incident at the recent public drop-in sessions when a resident had acted, in her opinion, in a loud, aggressive and rude manner which had shocked and disappointed her. The Chairman wished to thank Louise for her contributions and hard work and this was echoed by all group members. Glynis Overington had volunteered to step into Louise's role as Treasurer and this was agreed by the whole group. The Chairman thanked her for taking on this role.

13.35 Minutes of Meeting No 9

Action

These were accepted as accurate.

13.36 Matters Arising

All actions from the last meeting had been carried out or were included as agenda items for discussion.

13.37 Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

13.38 Drop-in Public Meetings

13.38.1 Feedback

Following the meetings, **PW** had sent out a report to the group saying that 111 adults and 10 children had attended over the two days and that a number of interesting comments had been placed in the suggestions box, all of which had been recorded. These comments, and those made personally by individuals at the sessions, were overwhelmingly positive and constructive. One person raised queries on the content of parts of the display in a manner which had upset other members of the public who were viewing the display. This individual had followed this up with a letter to the Chairman criticising the make up of the group and complaining that they had not been asked to be a member of the NPG. The Chairman had written in response to these comments. A further four

people had put their names down as volunteers and the Secretary had written a letter of thanks to all of them.

An early action resulting from the drop-in sessions was that both Zeals and Silton parishes had spare allotment capacity and had offered them to Bourton residents who had expressed an interest in the questionnaire. **PW** was liaising with both parishes and the interested Bourton residents to see if they could be matched up. This was being dealt with early as vacant allotments may not be available for long.

PW

13.38.2 Issues Arising

The data from the questionnaires had been sent to **PO** by Dianne & Roger Davies and he said that it was his intention to familiarise himself with its contents over the coming weeks. The question of further analysis of the data was raised and it was agreed that **AS** would review the maps showing important views and suggested development sites and indicate the number of respondents who had supported each view/site, so that they could be ranked in importance. One of the main thrusts of the NP was bound to revolve around the number, type, and distribution of new housing development in the village. **PO** said he would look at this aspect of the survey results in detail so that a meaningful initial conclusion could be drawn, this would then be further informed by the results of meetings with other interested groups, the VDS and parts of the Village Plan. It was noted that the NDDC Core Strategy did not set a target number of new houses in Bourton over the Plan period but left it to the village to decide how much growth it wanted through the NP process. It was further noted that the survey results would also be useful in preparing for the meetings with other groups.

PO

AS

PO

13.39 What Happens Next?

13.39.1 Group Meetings

The Chairman said it was important that meetings with other groups had structure to ensure consistent content but this should not constrain what people wanted to say. He would prepare a draft format for comment from the group. A long discussion then took place about the type of questions which may be raised in these meetings and how they might be dealt with. It was agreed that it would be important not to raise people's expectations at the meetings and to ensure that the subject matter was focussed on NP issues.

MW

Whilst many of the businesses, organisations and groups in the village were known it was important that no one was accidentally overlooked. The Chairman suggested, and the group agreed, that a flyer be prepared asking individuals and groups to contact the Secretary if they were interested in meeting and talking to the group about their plans and aspirations over the Plan period. **MW** would prepare a brief note and **PO** would draft a flyer to be sent round the group for approval and subsequent insertion in the parish magazine.

MW

PO

The Chairman asked **NH** about arranging a meeting with the VHMC, who should attend and what information would be useful for the benefit of both groups. He thought that there should be 2/3 people from each group, rather than all the respective members, and that the VHMC would prepare a list of things they wanted to achieve from a meeting. **GO** suggested that we should ask all groups to think about their needs from the meetings in advance. The Chairman asked if it was the VHMC's intention to arrange a public consultation event to inform the village where they had got to and what the options were for going forward? **NH** said that he hoped so and that things would become clearer shortly.

13.39.2 Status and Development of the NP

The question was raised as to whether the PC or NDDC could reject applications for development, which had been supported by the NP, after the Plan had been voted on and adopted. The Chairman said that, once adopted, the Plan became part of NDDC's planning policy for the area and it would not be right for either they, or the PC, to object to their own policies.

The Chairman said that a further meeting with the NDDC Planning Policy department was proposed as part of the ongoing liaison process. The purpose was to keep NDDC informed on our progress, raise questions on problematic issues, talk about the programme and funding and to hear from them about matters of interest from their work with other NP groups and discuss their proposed Core Strategy. The group thought that it would be helpful to meet them as a team and **PW** agreed to set this up, either locally or at Blandford. The team dealing with our area comprises Sarah Jennings and Nicola Laszlo.

PW

The main issues emerging from NDDC's consultations on the Core Strategy are now available on the www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk website. This is found in planning policy/north dorset/consultation on key issues/2012. The whole text is relevant but the section dealing specifically with Bourton appears under the heading on page 72 – **Stalbridge, the Villages and Countryside.**

A further issue that had come up in conversation with NDDC was the Bourton Mill development. Whilst outline planning consent in principle had been agreed by NDDC planners, it was far from certain that this scheme would proceed. It may, therefore, be necessary to re-visit the Mill development in a further questionnaire, in addition to incorporating data on building design from the VDS in the NP. These design principles could legitimately be included in the NP and would give them a statutory basis, rather than their current “guidance only” status. The question of how the VDS data can be incorporated into the proposed NP would be dealt with once further information has been gathered from the group meetings.

13.40 Focus Teams/Tasks

The Chairman stated that, together with the meetings with other groups, the setting up of Focus Teams to research and gather evidence for the Plan provides the NPG with an opportunity to increase and broaden the scope of people involved in the NP process. It was decided, in the first instance, to write to all volunteers to ask if they were interested in joining a small team to take forward key areas. It was probable that each team would be led by a NPG member who would then work with volunteers on specific tasks and report back to the main group. The Chairman handed out a draft of a proposed letter to volunteers and asked that the group email proposed amendments back to him by the end of the week.

ALL

13.41 Communications

NH reported that, following further meetings with Alex O’Donnell the completion of the new website would probably take another 4/5 weeks. Whilst the NPG were up to date in supplying information there were a number of other groups who had not given anything to Alex. **NH** said that he would be able to show the group a copy of the working website at the next meeting.

NH

In the meantime, **NH** would contact Heather Ransley about getting access to input information on the old website and the Chairman said that this should include the minutes of the last meeting (No 9) and the results of the NP questionnaire. The Chairman said that it would be preferable if this latter item were highlighted as recent news, rather than being tucked away somewhere. **PW** asked **NH** to ensure that before any NP data was loaded onto the website it was agreed beforehand by the group. The Chairman also asked **NH** to ensure that the group/Parish Council retained the copyright for all information it had supplied to Alex O’Donnell for the new website.

NH

NH

MW reported that he had prepared and sent an article about the drop-in sessions to the editor of the parish magazine for inclusion in the May issue.

Four members of the group attended the recent AGM of Riversmeet in Gillingham where David Beaton, Chairman of the Gillingham NPG, made an address. The transcript of this address is awaited.

PW

It is intended that there will be meetings with adjoining parishes and Gillingham NPG.

13.42 Vision

Ideas for how a vision for Bourton could be presented were discussed and several members thought that the Gillingham graphics were eye-catching. As to the vision itself, it was agreed that this should be discussed at a future meeting, following the meetings with other groups.

13.43 Programme

It was agreed that the programme for the NP would need to be re-visited, both for the preparation of the funding bid and following the meeting with NDDC to establish the likely timescales they could accommodate after our draft plan was submitted to them.

13.44 Budget/Funding

Due to the resignation of the Treasurer, the expenditure figures were not reviewed in detail.

PW reported that the initial information about government funding for NPs was now on the www.mycommunityrights.org.uk website and gave a short explanation of what information would be needed in the application form. This would not be available until 1st May 2013 and **PW** would make a note to obtain a form. It was agreed that **MW/GO** would put together a budget and programme of expenditure so that an early bid for funds could be made.

PW

MW/GO

Apart from the normal items of expenditure for the future, such as printing, venue hire and mileage, it was thought that additional items, such as display boards, projector screen and possible consultant fees might be included in the budget. Funding was to be provided through an organisation called Locality (locality.org.uk) and the Chairman said that they had produced a very good guide to NPs, which is available on the website, called **Neighbourhood Plans Roadmap Guide** and is worthwhile reading.

ALL

13.45 Any Other Business

The Chairman asked that all photographs from the drop-in sessions be held in one place for future use. **PO** agreed that he would keep them on his computer, along with the ones he had from the VDS exercise. It was agreed that everyone would email their photos to **PO** and that he would contact Roger Davies to collect theirs.

ALL

PW asked what actions the NPG should take in respect of the clear responses received in the questionnaire about traffic speeds in the village. It was agreed that the Chairman would raise the matter again with the Parish Council, which had been trying to do something to reduce speeds in the village for years.

MW

It was reported that there is to be a one-day seminar, run by a company called Sturquest, on Wednesday 22nd May 2013 at The Exchange in Sturminster Newton, entitled "Getting to Grips with Localism and the New Community Rights". **CP**, **PW** and **AS** had all expressed an interest in attending and **MW** would raise this at next Monday's PC meeting to see if they would fund it.

MW

13.46 Date of Next Meeting

This would be held at 7.30pm on Monday 13th May at No 5 Old Pound Court.