

**MINUTES OF MEETING NO 20
OF THE BOURTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP
HELD AT 5 OLD POUND COURT AT 7.30pm ON 8TH JANUARY 2014**

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

Apologies: C Price.

14.01 Minutes of Meeting No 19

These were accepted as a true record.

14.02 Matters Arising

Item 13.137 – There was still no response from Brimble Lea/Proctor's on their proposed housing layout.

14.03 Declarations of Interest

MW & PW as neighbours of the preferred VH site.
NH as a VHMC member.

14.04 Meetings with Organisations

MW reported that a member of the public had raised two issues at the last PC meeting which impacted on the NPG. The first concerned the interviews which the NPG had conducted with individual landowners and asked why the results of these interviews had not been made available for the public to see. The second asked why the PC appeared not to have responded to the important draft Local Plan document issued by NDDC. MW reported that a meeting was to take place between the person raising the issues, the Chairman of the PC and himself next week and he anticipated that both queries could be satisfactorily answered.

AS had provided the notes of the comments from the Church and Silton Surgery.

MW reported that there had been a positive response from the VHMC on the proposed public meeting and questionnaire which included items on the new village hall. NH reported that their meeting had been supportive of seeking the views of residents by way of a further questionnaire and they had proposed certain amendments to both the preamble and the questions. This was their first response and he thought it could be discussed at the meeting if there were any problems with the content.

As this had only recently been received it was agreed that individual members of the group should examine the proposed amendments and make individual responses at the meeting planned for Monday 13th January, rather than present an agreed NPG response. **ALL**

Initial comments on the proposed alterations concerned:

- (i) the repeated and underlined comment about the respondents “having read” the preamble before answering the questions,
- (ii) whether the proposed preamble was neutral and
- (iii) whether a proposed alternative solution should be included as Question 3 because otherwise it may appear that there was no option for the village if they disagreed with the number of houses that Brimble Lea wanted on the site for their client. Clearly the debate would be enlightened by a response from Brimble Lea on the number of houses proposed.

MW said that there had been no official response from the VHMC agreeing the Agenda or the Purpose of the meeting and NH was asked to seek a response from the Chair of the VHMC. The PC Chairman had agreed to chair the meeting.

On the proposed attendance, NH believed that all VHMC members had been invited to attend the meeting.

14.05 Public Meeting/Questionnaire

The aim was to hold a public meeting in February to report on the progress of the NP to date and to introduce and explain the additional questions which would be included in the second questionnaire. The timing of this meeting was mainly dependent on the availability of NDDC’s Planning Policy officers. At the meeting it was intended that the issues relating to the removal of the Settlement Boundary in the new draft Local Plan would be explained in detail by NDDC as it was a major departure from the existing Plan.

Once the report and questionnaire was agreed it would be sent to the PC for information. The questionnaire would address issues and include questions to residents on Housing numbers, the Settlement Boundary, the Village Hall and the Natural Environment.

This meeting would need to be widely advertised to attract as many residents as possible and the questionnaire and any accompanying maps would need to be printed and available for distribution. A team of volunteers would be asked to deliver and collect the questionnaires.

GO had established that 400 single folded A3 sheet (four sides) of 100gsm, printed in black and white, would cost around £80. After some discussion, and taking into account additional wording required by NDDC, it was thought that there may need to be two folded A3 sheets (8 sides) to carry all the information. It was agreed that **GO** would look at design options and costings for this along with **NH**.

It would be decided at the meeting with the VHMC on 13th January whether or not to include on a map the proposed housing associated with the new village hall. MW said that, if it was so decided, it could be added to the Settlement Boundary maps to be provided, as before, by Natalie Phillipson at NDDC.

MW agreed to contact **SJ** regarding her proposed presentation on Settlement Boundaries and the Countryside Policy to see if it could be made a little more relevant to Bourton issues.

NH raised the question of how and where all the data from the various village initiatives would be stored. For example, he had all of the Village Plan data, **PO** had the VDS data and there would be a lot of information from the NP exercise. **MW** said that he thought it should be archived with PC documents and would raise the issue with the Parish Clerk. He would also ask the clerk's views on the position in respect of the confidentiality of some of the information and the Data Protection Act. **DS** mentioned that the Freedom of Information Act might also be relevant.

14.06 Policy Writing

The question as to whether the group employs a planning consultancy to write up draft policies was discussed. It was decided that this was a good idea and it was agreed that **MW** should draft a brief and distribute this not only to group members but also to Liz Beth at Planning Aid.

PW said that the consultants should also be involved in all the necessary cross-referencing of information that would be necessary to produce a coherent draft Plan.

MW asked **DS** to distribute the drafts of policies which he had prepared relating to the Natural Environment. **DS** said that they only amounted to a sentence or two and may be too simplistic.

14.07 Focus Groups

MW asked that group members attend the Habitats and Wildlife evening being arranged by **DS** on Friday 10th January at 7.30 in the village hall. It was proposed to set up the hall from 6.30pm. It was uncertain how long the meeting would last. **AS** and Cathy Moorby would be arranging teas/coffees and **PW** would be providing biscuits.

He said that he would be doing a short introduction of the evening's events, which would feature Joy Wallis from Dorset Wildlife Trust who was going to present an illustrated talk. **DS/Bernard Sullivan** would then thank her and try to secure further volunteers after the talk.

DS reported that the day spent with Joy Wallis and volunteers to look at Bourton's ponds and other habitats had been very successful and he hoped that this would be reflected in Joy's presentation.

Following further research he had carried out, **DS** thought that there should be a further question added to the questionnaire in respect of the "Precautionary Principle" and supplied a copy for the group. **ALL** members should read and get back to **DS** as soon as possible if they had any comments. This principle states that "if there is good reason to believe that harmful effects may occur to human, animal or plant health or to the environment" as a result of a proposed development, the onus is on the developer to prove that there is no such risk. The proposed additional question was "**Would you wish to see the Precautionary Principle**

adopted to ensure that our Natural Environment is not damaged by any future development?”

DS talked further about IOWAs where it was noted that this classification of protection was now to be retained, initially, within NDDC's Local Plan. It was thought likely that these should also be afforded "Green Space" protection within the NP, along with selected open spaces. These open spaces may include the area of the Mill development, which was to be handed over to the village as part of the S 106 Agreement with the developer, and those surrounding the proposed new village hall.

DS asked what was to be done about the provision of a nature reserve as it was part of the wish list contained in the responses from the NP's first questionnaire. It was agreed that there was no need to include this issue in the further questions.

14.08 Communications

When the date for the public meeting had been agreed there would be a need to advertise this as widely as possible. This would be by way of a flyer in the parish magazine, on posters in the village, on the village website and in the BVM. It was noted that the closing date for entries in the parish magazine was 17th January although the date for the insertion of flyers would be sometime later (PW to find out date).

14.09 Programme

It was clear that, with the recent holiday break, member illness and the fact that NDDC were very busy with getting their Local Plan work sorted out, some time had been lost by the group. Whilst it was hoped that this could be regained, for budget purposes it was thought that the group should contact the Communities Development Foundation to see if they would extend the date for spending already budgeted monies. This would also bring the overall timing more in line with the latest dates likely to be relevant for NDDC's Local Plan process. MW to review.

14.10 Budget/Funding

GO presented an updated current expenditure chart. DS provided a further item of expenditure from the advertising of the Habitats and Wildlife event for £5.50 which was noted.

There remained the sum of £5,124.50 which MW confirmed would be largely accounted for through the employment of consultants to write up policies and catalogue cross-referencing of information.

14.11 Any Other Business

PO asked whether there was anything he could do to ease the workload on MW and DS. MW thanked him but said that in the near future PO would be very busy getting design and printing sorted out.

14.12 Date of Next Meeting

This was arranged for 7.30pm on Monday 20th Jan at Sandways Farm.