

**MINUTES OF MEETING NO 17 OF THE BOURTON NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLANNING GROUP, HELD AT BULLPITS,
AT 7.30pm ON FRIDAY 18th OCTOBER 2013**

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

13.116 Minutes of Meeting No 16

These were accepted as accurate.

13.117 Matters Arising

None.

13.118 Declarations of Interest

NH, PW, MW all declared an interest in the new Village Hall.

13.119 Planning Aid/NDDC Meeting

There was a long debate over two major issues; the question of engaging with the public on the Countryside Policy/Settlement Boundary debate and matters arising from the joint meeting with the VHMC and PC on the new village hall.

On the first issue, it was decided to await the views of NDDC before deciding on a course of action. The outcome of the second debate was that the NPG decided unanimously that **MW** should attend the proposed meeting with Brimble Lea to discuss the issue of the new village hall and private housing development.

13.120 Meetings with Organisations

MW, PW, AS and NH had met with Abigail Hunt from Hall and Woodhouse. It was a pleasant meeting but her senior could not attend. She will review notes of the meeting and respond as necessary. Contact has been made.

PO summarised the meeting with Forge Garage. There are confidential notes from these two meetings.

AS will take further action on the meetings with Silton Surgery and St George's Church which, with the Village Hall, will complete this stage of evidence gathering.

GO asked whether we should re-contact the White Lion, since the ownership has changed. She will find out if they wish to participate.

13.121 Focus Teams/Tasks

The meeting with volunteers on 14th October 2013 was a useful and enjoyable occasion, with MW giving an update of where we are, and where we go next. Each person attending was given a Roadmap of the whole process.

There were 21 volunteers and seven NPG members present. After the introduction, a lively question/answer session followed. The volunteers were then invited to visit the five Focus Group Areas. There followed a 'Brainstorming' session, with the volunteers contributing many ideas and comments, which were all recorded. Each group was led by a NPG member, who will carry the task through to the policy stage.

It was a busy and lively evening which gave us all much food for thought. The issues discussed can be summarised as follows:

13.121.1 Infrastructure (NH)

Nick circulated a handout which summarised how he intended to go forward with his group. They had identified several important areas to address, including Road Safety, Road Calming, Improved Signage, Parking, Street Lighting, Pavement Access, Transport Integration and Communications, including Superfast Broadband.

13.121.2 Natural Environment (DS)

The group contained a number of genuine enthusiasts with a great deal of expertise. DS reported that there had been much animated discussion in the group and there were those who felt that it was not practical to determine the steps which should be taken to maintain and enhance the Natural Environment without a scientific survey, which could take many months.

DS had pointed out that, in the context of the NP, there was not time to follow that path. He therefore proposed that the group should establish short term aims, to meet the requirements of the NP, and that the platform provided by the NP-based work could, subsequently, be used as the basis to achieve the longer term aims.

DS said that he intended to establish three teams to deal with the key aspects of the Natural Environment issues which are important to the village, one of which would be focussed on providing protection for the existing IOWAs which will lose their special status in the emerging NDDC Local Plan. Additional Open and Green spaces had been called for in the VDS.

MW suggested using the VDS as we need to upgrade the protection there which will be lost if we do not. For example: hedgerows, trees. We need to keep/make corridors for nature, not make impossible gaps.

13.121.3 Business and Economy (PO)

This ‘brainstorm’ produced some 6-7 points to consider. He could share Broadband with NH. His notes will follow.

13.121.4 The Built Environment (MW)

The Settlement Boundary issue loomed large, as did the Village Hall and a village centre. The Mill Site concerns everyone. MW to send his notes of the ‘brainstorm’ to the group.

13.121.5 Health and Wellbeing (AS)

There is a good deal of cross-over with other groups. Access is the issue which is causing most concern, this includes Public Transport and pavement access. It was also agreed that young people need a place to call their own - a skate park is one option. AS pointed out that the Gillingham skate park is being closed because it has been “worn out” due to the high level of use and there are not any funds to repair it. She said that there is a “Save Our Skate Park” appeal online, requesting donations.

The group also suggested researching the possibility of forming a Youth Club or providing a regular disco evening and there was some discussion of activities for unpaid carers, funded by Access Dorset and NHS Dorset, which included art, drumming, dance, etc.

13.121.6 Other Issues

MW suggested that we start to think about policies. The endorsement is in the evidence. We need to look at all our evidence, especially the VDS. It covers a lot of Natural Environment as well as the Built Environment issues. We need to start channelling the evidence.

NH thinks that Fran Gillett is interested in energy - **PW** to check.

CP to speak with Helen re skate park difficulties in Gillingham, with reference to the idea of Bourton Skate Park.

AS brought up the problem of identifying green spaces. Does the landowner need to agree? **MW** will check the legal planning process.

It was accepted that the NPG needs to be very conscious of the NPPF and the NDDC Local Plan.

13.122 Communication

The web site is functioning well and NPG members keep referring interested parties to it.

13.123 Vision and Aims

Nothing to report.

13.124 Programme

We are on target.

13.125 Budget/Funding

No significant issues.

13.126 AOB

None.

13.127 Date of Next Meeting

This will be on Monday 18th November at 7. 30pm at The Annex (PO/GO)