

**MINUTES OF MEETING NO 22
OF THE BOURTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP
HELD AT 18 MILL RISE AT 7 30pm ON MONDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2014**

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

In Attendance: S Firbank - Chairman Bourton Parish Council

14.25 Minutes of Meeting No 21

These were accepted as a true record.

14.26 Matters Arising

There were none that were not covered by the agenda.

14.27 Declarations of Interest

MW and PW as neighbours of the preferred new village hall site. NH as a VHMC member.

14.28 Meetings with Organisations

The events of the last few days were discussed. MW had sent an email to all NPG members, but not yet to SF, explaining the origin of the VHMC flyer and the agreed amendments to comply with NP processes. Distribution around the village had already started. The VHMC wanted to use the occasion of the public meeting to inform the village of what they had been doing and drum up support. CP was concerned that it did not prejudice the NP process.

MW said that it is the VHMC's independent flyer and they had confirmed that they would neither hand it out at the public meeting or display it nearby. AS had received hers and told the group that it was an update of the village hall work and made reference to the questionnaire. SF queried whether the NPG was happy with it and MW said that agreed amendments had been made, after advice received from NDDC at the meeting attended by MW, PW, NH and DS.

He went on to talk about the full Anne Skipper public examination report on the Slaugham NP and felt that her step by step analysis of their plan would prove to be valuable as a template from which we can work. PO asked about the sustainability question and MW explained that the SEA (Strategic Environment Assessment) is part of it. He would send out the minutes from the Thursday/Friday meetings, which still need a bit of editing. He has tried to produce an action list in the minutes of the meeting with the VHMC. This would also be circulated, with the latest update from Terry Sneller (TS) from NDDC. MW read out the letter from TS, concerning the SEA and reminded everyone that we will not know for sure whether a SEA is required until after NDDC's screening process is completed, hopefully in 2-3 weeks.

CP asked if it was something we could farm out. MW felt it was possible that, with NDDC's help, we could do it ourselves but we should leave a decision on outside help until the full extent of the task is known. It seems to be a question of drawing together the threads of evidence, which we and the VHMC already have, for example, notes on the 13 sites which were the subject of the VHMC's site selection process.

MW said that he had drafted a response to TS for comment. It needs to go to BPC and VHMC and be returned very quickly. We are talking about a small site, 0.3 hectares and a small development. The proposed hall is thought to be in the region of 420 sq metres. It is currently used for cattle/sheep grazing.

There had been a meeting at SF's house on Friday 31st January. This was to discuss with the VHMC what had happened at the meeting on Thursday 30th January at NDDC. After the NDDC meeting it was clear that we should quickly talk to the VHMC, or we could be at risk of failing in our NP process. We were reassured by Sarah Jennings (NDDC) that if we made various changes, it would still be possible to go ahead with the public meeting and questionnaire, but that we had to be very careful to separate our work from that of the VHMC.

MW asked NH if the VHMC presentation by Peter Williams (PBW) was ready. NH replied that he thought it was. SF raised the issue of the VHMC considering the option to de-couple from the NP process and/or follow the Community Right to Build method. MW commented that the Parish Council and VHMC trustees would have to agree if this course of action were to be followed. It is not possible always to just press on regardless of set procedures.

MW raised the issue of the questions for the questionnaire. He explained that, with regard to the new hall, the question should be on how to deliver it and reiterated that we are trying to be truly democratic and inclusive and are doing everything we can to help the new hall process.

GO asked if the VHMC have the required evidence for their site selection. Both MW and NH thought that there is some evidence and it would be needed. NH proposed thanks to MW and PW for the large amount of work they had put in over this difficult period.

SF asked for copies of the SEA process and Slaugham report and anything else he might need.

14.29 Public Meeting and Questionnaire

The effects of the SEA should not greatly affect the VH presentation as it will be made clear that the presentation is their work alone. However, it does significantly affect the NPG presentation and questionnaire. Monday's public meeting must be right and needs to show a united front to the village. We only have a little time to prepare the presentation and questionnaire.

MW said that Nicola Laszlo (NDDC) has accepted that she and SJ may have to answer a lot more of the questions raised than they originally thought, due to the SEA position. NDDC have also said that they will try to help us with any queries we may have in the preparations for the public meeting and questionnaire.

SF asked if we are the first NP in ND. MW thought that we were among the first as Gillingham started before us. We may be the first after the Government's front-runners in ND.

MW said that we had to get the questionnaire rewrites right. The questions are tough. If we could get them to NDDC by Weds/Thurs we could get approval to them by Friday or Monday morning.

SF asked if he would be needed to 'Chair' the meeting, eg, to act as a moderator. MW welcomed SF's presence at the public meeting and would wish him to be on the "platform" with the NPG, NDDC and other speakers. If members of the public were not acting within the spirit of the event he was welcome to step in.

MW felt that the layout of the hall would help and, with all the speakers and NPG members at the top/side and the presence of Catherine Loveday from Planning Aid, we should be fine. DS was fully expecting difficult questions. AS remarked that it was question and answer, not a debate. GO asked how the speakers/questions would work and how we would be handing over from one speaker to the next. MW said he would act as continuity if required.

PW asked about using the Garden Club screen. She wanted to ask and thank them in some way. GO suggested they could 'invoice' for the hire if they wanted to. MW said that we did need a laptop, projector and cover for wires for the presentation.

DS said that MW did not have the most current revisions to the Environment questions. GO said that, so we all had the right documentation, we should in future use a date on the foot of the page. PO to hold a 'teach in'.

NH had not had time to study the VH questions and preamble yet. The VHMC had objected strongly to the alternative funding question suggested by NDDC. MW would take this up with NDDC and try to find a better alternative.

DS requested some guidance on the Natural Environment/Open Spaces questions. He has five suggested questions including three on the protection of open spaces. There were issues arising from NDDC about the IOWAs forming the basis for some of the new Local Green Spaces. There are currently seven IOWAs in the village. NDDC said that there were probably only four that would meet the new criteria. Private gardens did not count now as brownfield sites, which had not been the case when the settlement boundary had been drawn in 2003.

DS identified the four remaining IOWAs as the cemetery, the overflow cemetery paddock, the School Field and the site adjacent to the Mill. DS added that he has left the 'precautionary principle' in the questionnaire, as it provides an extra layer of protection, if the village wants it.

GO asked whether we could include a reference note when we refer to other publications in our text. This was accepted as good practice which would help the Referencer when it came to the written policies and background evidence.

PW asked if we should take the comments box to the public meeting. All thought that we should.

MW asked again that all feedback be sent to him by 1pm on Wednesday.

GO asked about posting flyers about the public meeting on the village notice boards. NH said he had already done this and provided a list of their whereabouts. Queen Oak has not been covered and CP offered to do this. MW will email our neighbours, Pen, Zeals, Silton and Gillingham to invite them to the meeting. NH will post the info on the website. AS offered to record the number of attendees. PW suggested name badges which was agreed. NH will open up the hall for setting up at 6pm for the 7pm start.

14.30 Policy Writing

This would have to be addressed once the public meeting was over.

14.31 Focus Groups

NH raised the subject of the proposed visit from Sue Mitchell, from Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. She will do a village walk to look at small achievable traffic-related projects which could be undertaken, as she had done this for other villages in Dorset. SF briefed the group on the Volunteer Speed Camera Service. MW thought Andrew Cattaway (County Councillor) should be invited to join the walk because of his wealth of knowledge, at County Council level, on transport matters. NH would like to know dates when most of us can attend. ALL those interested to confirm by next week to NH.

DS said that Bernard Sullivan was having an afternoon tea for the wildlife volunteers on Friday 21st February, to discuss future projects.

SF asked that the group keep in close contact with Danny Lawes, the Parish Council member dealing with footpaths. AS said she was keeping him in the loop on all issues raised by the NPG focus group.

14.32 Communications

The public meeting will be advertised on the website (NH). There are 20 posters spread throughout the village. Flyers have gone to each household and spares have been left in the

shop and garage. It was suggested that the forthcoming questionnaire should be advertised on the website (NH). MW asked that someone bring a camera to the public meeting for some good pictures of the event. This could form the basis for an article for the Blackmore Vale Magazine and be useful as evidence in the NPG consultation statement.

MW thought it might be a good idea to prepare a flyer in a month or so in a similar way to the VHMC to update people on events. CP wondered about an update via letter drop. MW preferred to do this by including a flyer in the parish magazine.

14.33 Programme

MW reported that we had expected that the referendum for the NP would need to coincide with NDDC and national elections in May 2015. This was not now the case and our Plan can go to referendum as soon as it passes the public examination stage. Even though there has been some slippage of time, MW is hopeful that the NP's adoption will be as originally programmed, or even earlier. He did not believe that the recent delays and the need for a SEA would affect this end date.

14.34 Budget and Funding

GO reported that she had emailed the latest statement to everyone. We missed a payment to Upper Stour, which was being corrected. Spending to date has been from the previously held funds and not from the Community Development Fund grant monies.

There would be a further invoice for £10 for the flyers insert in the Parish Magazine. There would be a claim for mileage for two recent trips to NDDC at Blandford by MW. GO asked if there were any more claims. NH said that there would be charges from the VHMC for electricity payments for three meetings of the Environmental Group. MW asked that these be invoiced. GO asked if NH would be claiming re posters/laminating. NH declined payment.

MW said he would apply for an extension of time for our funding electronically.

14.35 Any Other Business

DS asked if the content of the presentation should include the questions in the questionnaire. MW said that it could not. What was important was that anything we intended to say was correct and would not prejudice our process.

14.36 Date of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Monday 3rd March 2014 at The Annex.

