

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working group held on Thursday 27 November 2014

1. Present: John Jeynes (JJ), Alastair Shankland (minutes) (AS), Carol Kambites (CK), Vicky Redding (VR), Terry Webb (TW), Gary Powell, Clare Sheridan (Chair) (CS), Chris Brine (CB).
2. Apologies for Absence: Chris Cowcher, Agnieszka Paszkiewicz, Rob Waite, Anna Creed, Ben Creed, Hugh Garai.

It was confirmed the Anna Creed had stepped down from the steering group (and many other community activities) and this would be put into writing to confirm. CS was still seeking clarification if her Son Ben was still involved. It was all agreed that to have him involved was a good idea and made the group and decisions stronger.

3. Declarations of Interest:

None

4. Approval of the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group held on 25 September 2014:

Item 2 action should have read CS not AS – previous minutes of 14.11.14 would be amended accordingly.

In response to a discussion surround Anna's recent departure and previous leave-taking and re-joining AS responded that to his mind the actions of the group were not being guided by any officer, Cllr or other interested party. While the plan might be late in delivery it was being prepared independently as it should. Moreover if he thought differently he would feel duty bound to say so.

Item 6, VR circulated note of Gloucestershire Assoc of Parish and Town Councils' technical planning training from 12.11.14, (attached to minutes of previous meeting). It was reiterated by VR that neighbourhood plans can be prepared in advance of Local Plans or a Core Strategy, (JCS in the case of Gloucestershire). The recovery of appeals in favour of neighbourhood plans was highlighted. In particular a recent case in Aylesbury Vale. <http://www.buckinghamtoday.co.uk/news/more-news/minister-steps-in-to-see-off-planning-appeal-1-6437458>

It was agreed that the above article, recent correspondence from Locality to the Clerk, and the GAPTC training pack would be shared with SDC neighbourhood plan link officer in order to clarify understanding and the position Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan is adopting. Members present were unanimous in agreement that these should be shared in a positive manner and it was the working groups continued intention to work closely with SDC, other neighbourhood plans to develop a strong plan for Stonehouse.

It was agreed these should be shared with SDC prior to the forthcoming neighbourhood planning meeting jointly hosted by SDC and GRCC on Monday 15 December.

Members also discussed any future meeting with those preparing NP in Easington and Standish. Evidence to date particularly around several issues including employment/economic development, the canal other cross boundary issues needed to be discussed. JJ raised that we must set clear terms of reference that the other steering groups are clear on - the purpose of the meeting should only be for 'fact finding'.

AS requested of VR this be raised at a forthcoming strategic planning and development meeting on 1 Dec between Stonehouse and Easington.
Recurring and other items covered below.

5. Budget breakdown & expenditure to date

AS reported that negotiation letter was with the Clerk with a full budget developed showing spend and importantly how we would allocate the remainder of the grant into 2015.

6. Project health check

AS raised his belief that he believed the project was 6-8 weeks behind where it needed it should be.

He also elaborated on the difficulty in arranging the dates and opening sought assistance from Chair.

CB noted that although the neighbourhood plan was progressing there was a degree of concern within the Council that poor project planning was not making best use of resources including AS. Furthermore, he highlighted that the neighbourhood plan was one of the most important undertakings of the Town Council with a real opportunity to secure a prosperous future for Stonehouse and this opportunity must not be lost through poor group leadership. AS invited CB to attend a further meeting in the New Year.

TW requested of AS the remaining consultation responses for inputting into the consultation database.

JJ raised all present agreed that despite repeated requests for leads to be supplied with all the relevant data to their subject area from the relevant documents this had still not be delivered some 8 weeks later and this was a bottleneck to plan making. The alternative which CB, and the working group, acknowledged as undesirable is for all topic leads to trawl this vast amount of data individually.

7. User group consultation planning

Schools

AS had made positive contact with Maidenhil and Park Juniors. Correspondence would be passed to CK/CS to follow up and understand the best manner to gain maximum benefit.

ACTION AS to pass correspondence to CK/CS for further work.

Goodwill evening

Plans for the goodwill were well advanced. ACTION AS to send request to absent members for assistance manning the stall on Saturday 28 November.

VR circulated a draft of the prize draw questionnaire for use at Goodwill and for inclusion in the next Stonehouse News.

After some discussion by all present, it was agreed to upload the questions to Survey Monkey subscription fee would be paid for either by the neighbourhood plan or from Town Council on the basis that, combined with the Newsletter and Website it provides a convenient means to consult on any proposals and ideas.

8. Any Other Business
9. Workshop – retail and commercial policy development
10. Next Meeting Date

Meeting date Thursday, 18 December 2014, 8 and 22 January 2015.