

Blackdown Hills
 Parish Network
 Steering Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6 August 2012 at 2.30pm
 AONB Meeting Room Hemyock

Present:

Heather Stallard	HS
Catherine Bass	CB
Lisa Turner	LT
Bruce Payne	BP
Geoffrey Sworder	GS
Ann Papworth	AP

Item	Minutes	Action
1.	Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed.	
2.	<p>Discussion and actions following BHPN meeting July 10 2012</p> <p>a. <u>Communications:</u> Next circular to newspapers and LA newsletters to be sent once the website contains some information and is accessible.</p> <p>Noted that the Chair of Sheldon Parish meeting is now Sir Roger Martin and that Donna Evans has assumed Clerk duties in Hemyock.</p> <p>b. <u>Website:</u> Final designs for the top level webpages were approved (Homepage, with portals to Parish Network (records and network business) and Local Life (information/advertising pages for Blackdowns Community and visitors). Copies of the jpeg page files to be circulated to Stg Gp. Designers Cosmic Ethical are still to make pages accessible on a draft server, so not yet possible to add content or to check that capability offered is evident. This to be urgently pursued .</p> <p>Four hours of training for up to 6 people is available f.o.c. paid for by DCC through Cosmic, training sessions to be arranged asap (probably early September) for CB, LT, BP, Alun Tarr and Ken Pearson.</p> <p>Cosmic's second invoice (£705.20) to be held until website is known to be functioning as per quote. Original quote to be circulated to Stg Gp.</p> <p>The Blackdowns Hills Business Association to be invited to circulate an invitation in its Members' Newsletter to advertise under relevant categories on the Local Life pages of the website.</p> <p>c. <u>Traffic/Transport group:</u> AP reported that the Community Minibus group was reformed, Ken Pearson Secretary; date of next meeting was unknown. Stg Gp recommended that KP is contacted with a view to raising the profile of the Community minibus, access details etc. Information could be uploaded to both the Parish Network and Local Life sides of the website during training.</p> <p>Anticipate that this group will form the core of the Traffic /Transport group with assistance from other transport providers (eg TRIP, possibly Blackdowns Support Group). Noted that Culmstock Parish Plan revision questionnaire revealed a need for transport opportunities to Uffculme and Tiverton Parkway Station.</p>	<p>CB</p> <p>CB</p> <p>CB</p> <p>CB</p> <p>CB</p> <p>CB</p>

	<p>d. <u>Planning group:</u> Item re request for support for the Planning Group will be circulated for publication in all parish magazines and to all Parish Clerks together with a poster to be put on Parish Notice Boards. Meeting to be called in September when level of support is better understood.</p> <p>Contact details of current known volunteers to be sent to GS and LT pending setting of date for meeting</p> <p>LT has been invited to talk to Buckland St Mary parish council in September about neighbourhood planning. LT to ask B St M Clerk if it would be possible to circulate meeting information to the Parish Network to facilitate a wider dissemination of the information.</p> <p>Suggested that a similar talk is delivered at the next Parish Network mtg on Nov 6. LT also noted that there is a meeting of the Somerset Towns Forum at SCAT on similar topic – details to be circulated to Stg Gp.</p> <p>e. <u>County / District Council communications:</u> No response received to any letters sent to either County or District Councillors. CB has talked once by phone with Cllr Ross Henley (SCC); he agreed to look into sources of funding for community activities in the Blackdown Parishes. AT to remind him of this at next Churchstanton PC mtg.</p> <p>f. <u>AOB:</u> Item raised by Dunkeswell Chair, John Barrow, re Highways obligations wrt to enforcement of land-owners' hedge cutting responsibilities on road sides (vertical cut required to the edge of metalled road). Obstruction of sightlines, danger to vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians in villages and lanes is noted throughout the area. Highways authorities seem not to recognise the true road width where verges and hedges have overgrown and slumped onto metalled road and do not clear these properly. Road condition itself is also of concern, with innumerable potholes and damaged margins.</p> <p>Stg Gp recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter is written to SCC and DCC Highways officers to introduce the Parishes Network, outlining these concerns and to asking for clarification of their obligations to enforce hedge trimming and access to effective pothole repairs. • Alert parishes to opportunities for employing a group Lengthsman through Traffic/Transport group – until a Highways group is established? • Parishes are invited to submit a note of offending hedges and road surfaces in their areas. 	<p>GS/LT/CB</p> <p>LT</p> <p>LT</p> <p>AP/CB</p> <p>CB</p> <p>CB</p>
3.	<p>Finance</p> <p>a. <u>Bank balance</u> stands at £3,383.51. Full account was presented.</p> <p>b. <u>Outstanding invoices:</u> Payment to Blackdown Hills Healthy Living Centre for room hire approved (£16). Cosmic invoice held over</p> <p>c. <u>Funding:</u> advertising revenue anticipated to cover annual website costs.</p>	
4.	<p>AOB and date of next meeting: Meeting closed at 16.30.</p> <p>Next meeting date tba following progress on actions noted here.</p>	