

MINUTES BHCP STEERING GROUP MTG THURSDAY June 19 2014 at 10.30 am

Churchinford Village Hall

Attending

Heather Stallard Chair

Catherine Bass Co-ordinator & Communications Group leader

Lisa Turner AONB

Bruce Payne Wellington w/o, AONB Management, Natural Futures

Ken Pearson Churchstanton & Traffic, Transport & Highways Group leader

Apologies: Geoffrey Sworder Dunkeswell & Planning Group leader

Cathy Gardiner tendered her resignation from the Steering Group as she is heavily involved in the development of the East Devon 10 Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

The Steering Group expressed disappointment, while also commending Cathy for her valuable contributions in the last year.

- 1 Minutes of last mtg April 9 2014 were discussed together with the Minutes of the AGM on May 24 2014.
- 2 Matters arising:
Communications: FOI letter to CDS re broadband
KP reported that his request for information regarding the CDS/BT arrangements had resulted in a copy of the same redacted letter as has been received by all other enquirers. SCC will not release any information. He noted that there is EU legislation which states that there should be no separate regional deals with national utility services.
3. Updates to Action Group activity
Communications:
Suggestion that support for more transparency on BB rollout be requested from Neil Parish (*post mtg – NP has been appointed as a Ministerial Aide to the Transport Minister following Govt. Cabinet re-shuffle*).
Stg Gp recommended that all correspondence on this matter should be copied to all the local MPs (Jeremy Brown, Neil Parish, David Lawes, all county, district and borough councillors, Parish clerks, BHBA and Transition Group). CB
Clear that the lack of clarity on prospects for high speed BB across the area is affecting businesses (*post mtg - see [here](#) for latest news from local BB champion Graham Long; note that the map describing CDS latest updates on coverage are available from [here](#)*).

CB reported that the website now carries an RSS feed from the news page and will send details of how to get news include in the feed to all administrators. CB

Traffic, Transport and Highways:
CB had received updates from the A303 Ahead group (DCC supported partnership with Parsons Brinkerhoff) which is working on gathering options for improving the A30/A303 from Honiton to Broadway, a series of drop-in sessions is being held through July to share information available to date. Government is interested in trunk road upgrades, however this section is less busy than many

others in the country, despite local opinion. A few sections could be made safer/easier to negotiate in the medium term (2-5yr). CB to recommend that the press release be sent to View from the Blackdowns for publication. Opinion is divided over whether dualling is suitable – or likely - with conflicting reports as to the outcome. AONB management group is also divided on this, in spite of the value placed on environment considerations. Noted that the text version of the new AONB management plan is on their website. Key questions relate to options for improving the A358 Ilminster to Taunton section, environmental issues and realistic evaluation of dualling vs existing with improvements. CB

Planning:

CB reported that the EDCC 10 Parish Neighbourhood planning team requested and now have a page of their own within the Blackdowns Online website, administrator is Tracey Bell

Agreed to collect copy of all available Local Plans, ascertain declared level of commitment to AONB for future correspondence. BHPN to develop a clear policy to support the AONB in its stated aims. LT/CB

SCC funding for AONBs is under threat, CB to respond on behalf of BHPN to drawing attention to statutory obligations to support aims of AONBs CB

4 Finance.

Payments since last mtg: £749.28 [£621.78 to CJB (Salary Oct to March) £114.00 to Cosmic (Domain name renewals 2 yr + advert form amends), £13.50 to BHLC (room hire)]. CB

Receipts since last mtg: £330.40 (£300 parish sub, £30 adverts)

Account balance at 18.6.2014 : £ 2080.81

Cheque £53.60 to Gill Beardsworth (expenses Sept – May). CB to request she adds 20 community facilities to the website before the next Steering Group meeting.

Cheque £15 to Churchinford Village Hall for use of Hall

5 AOB (none). Date of next steering group meeting: tba September

CB