

MINUTES BHPN STEERING GROUP MTG MONDAY May 11th at 10.30am

AONB Meeting Room

Attending

Heather Stallard	Chair
Catherine Bass	Co-ordinator & Communications Group
Bruce Payne	Wellington w/o, AONB Management, Natural Futures
Ken Pearson	Churchstanton & Traffic, Transport & Highways Group leader
Graham Long	Upottery

Apologies Lisa Turner AONB

- 1 **Minutes** of last meeting on Mar 30th were discussed and approved.

2. **Matters arising:**
 - CB to enquire cost of adding Google Analytics code to website (Cosmic) to track usage and set up analytics on Facebook page. CB
 - All agreed that online presence needs to be used more frequently with much more directed sharing with all relevant parish and organisation pages. All
 - Website needs more revenue – CB to investigate setting up direct debit payments from advertisers to reduce invoicing task. CB

3. **BHPN AGM**
 - Date:** Monday 22nd June in the Dutch Barn, Woodhayes. Hire cost is £90 +VAT, charges waived for AV (bring our own laptop). CB to confirm with Greg Page-Turner. CB
 - Agreed to ask for donations (c.50p) for refreshments to help defray costs. HS to supply tea/coffee/milk/sugar, CB to supply biscuits. HS/CB
 - Agenda:**
 - CB to confirm date with David Whitton of DCC and to enquire re content Devon Highways Road Wardening /Parish Cluster proposals. CB
 - KP to chase up enquiries with SCC Highways for a complementary speaker (John Perrott -Operations Manager, Transport Somerset Highways), also Mendip Community Transport. KP

Other items could include

- Stressing importance of working together – while Localism appeared to fizzle out after the coalition Govt of 2010, PCs may now be expected to take much more responsibility than previously anticipated – funding issues?.
- BP volunteered to scan available PC minutes and to draw together common themes. HS willing to include a 5 min item on in=the value of parish clusters BP/HS
- Development of a BH community transport scheme either as an adjunct to the BSG group or a separate community company – need to investigate existing schemes elsewhere, however success of any scheme is dependent on buy-in from residents in the first place. Suggested that the idea is floated at the AGM with some examples and an idea of what is already available, assess level of support. All?
- Development of parish hubs to tackle road maintenance – an obvious starting point is to find out more about the Luppitt/Dunkeswell partnership for road maintenance. A new scheme could be put together with Hemyock/Culmstock/Clayhidon? Others in Somerset? CB/HS

Regular AGM items (Chair & Finance reports, election/endorsement of Steering group) will be added and the final agenda confirmed at the **next Stg Gp mtg on the morning of either 28th May or 2nd June – CB to canvas for best date.**

NB 1. BP is no longer a parish councillor of Wellington without, thus precluding him from further membership of the AONB Management group. Not an issue for BHPN as open to all residents.

NB 2. Graham Langford is once more a Clayhidon councillor (he was involved at the outset of network in 2009)

NB 3. Still need a Dunkeswell rep on Stg group.

Related relevant matters (all related to BHPN action groups and AGM):

GL referred Stg Gp to his letter published in May issue of VftB re the growing Rural/Urban divide.

Keen that the issue of subsidy vs self-help is addressed. All agreed that finance is needed.

Public Transport – needs Parish Councils to lobby for their own residents. KP pointed out that the two counties have been offered ring-fenced funds £350k (Devon) and £300k (Somerset) to assist in getting innovative schemes off the ground – not advertised, need to access some of this funding.

4. Forward Planning/Updates for Action areas

- Communications – broadband issues still unresolved and unclear re question of match funding and roll-out in Devon and Somerset, many household will remain unconnected by until 2020 or perhaps beyond.

- Planning – KP and LT are to arrange a date for a TDBC parishes planning workshop to discuss specific AONB relevant developments. 10 parish Neighbourhood plan in EDDC is going slowly, only 2 parishes are anywhere near complete (Dunkeswell and Stockland), with Upton next. Issues around EDDC Local Plan which will probably be pushed through following the election- could obviate the Neighbourhood plan development as already designated Village Hubs are supported over other options – this will lead to less and less support for remaining villages not included.

KP/LT

- Traffic/Transport – as per AGM above

KP

5. Finance

Payments since last mtg £284.40 to Co-ordinator (Nov- March)

£ 225.00 to Strand Stores re Planning mtg lunch

Receipts since last meeting £0.00

- Account balance at 11/5/15 : £ 2,127.40

6 AOB

- Suggested that rather than invite the two MPs to the AGM (Rebecca Pow and Neil Parish), they are invited to a steering group mtg early in the summer recess to relay the concerns of the AGM.

- CB to encourage new members – esp Neroche, Otterford, Monkton, and Tatworth & Forton who were represented at the Planning meeting but are not subscribing member parishes.

Next stg gp meeting on morning of either 28th May or 2nd June