

Blackdown Hills  
Parish Network  
Steering Group

MINUTES BHPN STEERING GROUP

AONB meeting room 11.00 on Monday January 18 2016

**Attendance:**

Heather Stallard

Catherine Bass

Graham Long

Ken Pearson

Lisa Turner

Apologies: Bruce Payne

1. **Minutes of meeting November 12 and General Meeting November 26 2015 were agreed, matters arising were taken in the agenda**

2. **Finances**

Bank balance £1,553.99

Cheques to bank £ 265.00

Actual assets £1,818.99

Current liabilities to financial year end £240 ( admin costs to CB)

Four existing member parishes still to contribute c. £265 (Churchstanton, Upottery, Cotleigh and Membury.

Four new members in this financial year, Combe Raleigh, Buckland St Mary, Monkton and Tatworth & Forton.

3. **Update on questionnaire to parishes re PLANNING, TRAFFIC, TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATIONS**

Responses received so far from Neroche Parishes, Luppitt and Wellington w/o. There are assurances from several other parishes that they will send their replies by Feb 1.

Agreed to collate all replies with group leaders' comments from the General Meeting in November at next Steering group meeting, for communication to MPs.

Also agreed to set up the next meeting with MPs (summer recess) at the same time

4. **Updates re actions on**

a. **Planning** – reviewed the original purpose of this meeting (to address inattention to AONB management plan in TDBC decisions). Decided to defer any meeting in Somerset until all responses to 3 (above) are in.

b. **Traffic, Transport** – LT reported that there is data available on Devon CC website which identifies where traffic surveys have been carried out, both permanent installations or short term counts. Data should be available if relevant surveys have been done. Somerset does not have a similar arrangement, but will look up whether there has been a survey in a specific place. Indications are that Somerset might be amenable to commissioning a survey on our behalf. For further discussion.

CBO bus will continue for a further 6 months, next meeting on Feb 1. CB to look into the GWR rail use incentive grant to see if this could be used to help support regular CBO bus trips to Tiverton Parkway or Taunton Stations. Will report back to KP before Feb 1. **CB**

c. **Broadband** – GL gave a resume of progress since December with CDS, BT and BDUK. He has been invited as a witness to the DCMS Govt select committee on Feb 11<sup>th</sup>.

5. **Improve communications**

a. **Website**- CB has met with Cosmic to discuss how to upgrade [www.blackdownsonline.org.uk](http://www.blackdownsonline.org.uk) to make it more immediate looking and to allow hosted parishes to comply with Transparency Code requirements. Confirmed decision to abandon offering advertising space and agreed the value of integrating the site better with social media. Many parishes already use this and it would bring the Network together. Cost quoted by Cosmic between £660 – £900 (excl. VAT)

Discussed alternative mechanisms for achieving an upgrade, however agreed that with clear instruction to Cosmic the result would be a quicker and more effective transition. There are sufficient funds available to start the work and CB will investigate opportunities to recoup **CB**

costs via grants. CB to liaise with Cosmic and Steering Group re site structure and hierarchy.

- b. **Annual Parish Meetings** - all steering group members willing to attend some Annual Parish Meetings to talk about the network. CB to ask parishes for their dates (should fall between March 1 and June 1). Stg Gp to agree schedule of visits and the content to be shared with parishes at next meeting.

**CB/all**

**6. AONB Management Group representation**

AONB has suggested that BHPN manages the appointment of 3 parish representatives to the AONB management group. Agreed that reps may be nominated from any AONB parish, whether a BHPN member or not; in the case of an election (ie more nominees than places), member parishes will be asked to rank all nominees in order of preference and top three will be elected i.e. a rep could be returned, nominated and elected, from a non subscribing parish.

**CB**

CB to send clarification to all parishes. Important to get a new clause in the BHPN Constitution to reflect this role before the June AONB meeting.

**7. AOB and Date of next meeting**

- **Date of BHPN AGM Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup> venue tbc**
- **Date if next Steering Group meeting Tuesday February 16 at SAONB office or Heather's tbc.**