

# Parish Network Steering Group

## MINUTES BHPN STEERING GROUP

**AONB meeting room Monday September 12 2016 at 14.30**

### Attendance:

Heather Stallard	Chair
Lisa Turner	AONB Planning Officer
Ken Pearson	Clerk to Stockland PC, Traffic, Transport & Highways Group leader
Catherine Bass	Co-ordinator, Communications Group leader
Graham Long	Uptontery Councillor, AONB Management Group
Alison Weekes	Clayhidon PC
Jocelyn Pritchard	Hemyock PC & AONB Management Group
Neil Punnett	Hemyock PC

### Apologies:

Mike Bell	Membury PC
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### 1. Minutes of meeting July 20 2016 were agreed

- Noted thanks from Frances Parslow for £30 contribution acknowledging check of BHPN annual accounts.
- Noted receipt of £250 locality fund from Cllr Ray Radford toward cost of redesigning the website.

### 2. Finances

Closing balance at Aug 24 2016	£1623.76	<b>CB</b>
Outstanding payment to Cosmic	£456.00 to be paid	

Reminders re annual contributions are now due to all Clerks of member parishes – subs are paid within the current year, although one or two parishes do pay in advance. This should result in income of c. £1500. Neroche parishes and Yarcombe are considering joining and have asked for more information about the terms of membership, today's agreed policy document ( see below) to be sent to all clerks for info and clarification.

**CB**

### 3. Forthcoming Meeting Updates

1. MPs: new date for meeting with MPs Pow and Parish agreed as THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10<sup>th</sup> 14.00- 16.00. Venue tba, Pitminster or Corfe suggested.

**CB**

Agenda to include

- reports back on communications updates, outcome of this year's survey from parishes re highways and planning ( CB to forward correspondence etc from last year's meeting to new stg gp members).
- Concerns about loopholes in planning (eg caravan emplacements translating to right to build, inconsistencies in enforcement between LAs) affordable housing requirements of developers in small sites (note that MP Pow is now PPS to housing minister), AONB to contact planning officers with these concerns and also increasing numbers of change of use applications.
- Also concerns arising re basic highway maintenance and increasing road safety issues where councils have no means of paying for assistance.
- Clerks to be invited to report any further incidences on all above since last request.
- Transparency code – how many parishes do now have a compliant website – CB to survey.
- Brexit and the rural environment

**CB**

**LT**

**CB**

2. CB pursuing both county Highways teams to arrange a meeting – so far DCC has a call in with the local area manager Willy Pike, no response yet. KP invited new Steering group members JP and NP to the Traffic Transport Highways group. HGV traffic routing is seen as a particular problem, contributing to increased traffic and road wear.

**CB**

### 4. BHPN as a Community Interest Company

1. HS, NP and JP to prepare a report on options for an appropriate route for BHPN to gain recognition as a legal entity.

**HS/JP/  
NP**

CB to contact DALC, SALC ( and NALC if necessary) to pursue membership of both local groups. **CB**

2. CB tabled a draft operating policy document to share with all parishes, this was amended and adopted (see attached) and is to be circulated to all clerks and to accompany the constitution on the website. **CB**

Working groups comprise:

Communications: CB GL, AW

Traffic, transport and highways: KP, JP

Planning & Housing: LT, NP, KP

## **5 Outcome of ERDF Broadband application**

GL updated all: bid was rejected on grounds of not meeting a number of core requirements and bid had not been deemed to identify a suitable delivery partner. Bid team felt that these issues were all well addressed in the bid. A complaint to the parliamentary ombudsmen via our MPs is still a possibility but inappropriate in view of Govt changes since Brexit vote and the new B-B initiatives coming on stream in the AONB.

Correspondence to be circulated to new steering group members. **CB**

CB to draft letter of thanks to Bob Nelson and Adrian McArdle for their efforts.

## **6 AOB and meeting dates**

- Consultation re A30 upgrades to bypass Monkton between Honiton and Devonshire Hotel – agreement that both options over-engineered a possible solution and spoiled too much of the surrounding countryside. In favour of a much smaller bypass solution closer to Monkton and using the remaining money to improve A30 and A303 crossing points in the AONB. **CB**
- Date of AGM agreed as Thursday November 24<sup>th</sup> 2016 at a venue tba **CB**
- Date of next steering group meeting tba in advance of MP meeting.