

Blackdown Hills
 Parish Network
 Steering Group

MINUTES BHPN STEERING GROUP

Tuesday 15 May 2017 at 10.00

AONB meeting room

Attendance:

Heather Stallard	Chair	Alison Weekes	Clayhidon PC
Lisa Turner	AONB Planning Officer	Jocelyn Pritchard	Hemyock PC
Ken Pearson	Clerk to Stockland PC,	Neil Punnett	Hemyock PC
Catherine Bass	Co-ordinator		
Graham Long	Uptontery PC	Apologies: Mike Bell	Membury PC

1. **Minutes of meeting 4 April 2017 were agreed** with minor amendment to Min 3b re bidding for broadband lots.

Matters arising:

- GL supplied email address for the Uptontery contact re letter of support for Uptontery Village Hall

2. **Finances**

Current account balance £2007.13

3. **Reports from work groups**

a Planning & Housing:

- Planning leaflets have been distributed to all parishes (10-12 to each member parish clerks, 1 to each non-member clerk with an invitation to join the BHPN). A few postal addresses to be confirmed. KP advised that postal correspondence to Churchstanton should go via the Chair David Gollin. Spare leaflets will be available to attenders at the AGM. **CB**
- Several parishes have taken up the offer to have a Steering group member attend parish council meetings, JP spoke to Buckland St Mary, Monkton, Stockland, CB attended Kentisbeare Annual Parish Meeting

b Traffic, Transport and Highways

- Seven responses so far from parishes regarding parish traffic/transport and highway concerns in response to circulated questionnaire. Five further responses anticipated results to be collated. **JP**

c Communications

- GL draft leaflet texts will be drawn from existing reports, draft ready by end of June to share at the AGM. CB to advise word count etc. **GL/CB**
- CDS is to re-instate their voucher scheme. Rate of broadband provision is improving toward the universal 95% of households target, however the remaining 5% will be almost exclusively in rural situations. Since the population is broadly split 80:20 urban:rural, this means that up to 25% of the population in rural areas will still be without adequate provision. In a recent survey listing essential requirements for new housing, the ability to stream video via broadband appears 8th on the list.
- Specific issue at Combe St Nicholas which has been left out of current provision options; Gigaclear hopes to negotiate a practical solution with VONEUS (fixed wireless provision).

4. **AGM preparation: June 24th**

- a**
 - Yarcombe Village Hall is booked, CB to apply for TENs licence and liaise with hall re a pop-up bar (community has an occasional bar in the VH following closure of the local pub) and AV facilities.
 - Following local elections to invite county councillors (new division in Devon) and local councillors and ensure that MPS are aware of the meeting.

• Agenda:

Formal proceedings:

- Welcome from the Chair and adoption of Minutes of AGM 2016
- Report on activities in the year from each working group
- Presentation of accounts
- Election of Steering Group

- Attending County and District councillors will be invited to introduce themselves informally and describe their Council remits
- Open discussion time.

5 Blackdowns Hills Business Association

CB raised the question of BHBA's recent introduction of a newsletter which appears to be covering many aspects of other BH AONB area activities, advertising BHBA events and non BHBA promoted events. HS to talk with Claire Stepney at the next BHBA mtg.

6 AOB

Linda Bennett retires in July as the BH AONB Manager. The AONB Management group has resisted attempts to amalgamate the BH and E Devon AONBs and remains keen to maintain this position. Recruitment process is in hand for a new manager, although this may not happen for an August start.

7. Date of next meeting

Steering Group to meet if necessary prior to AGM, otherwise after AGM June 29th 2017 at Yarcombe Village Hall.