

Blackdown Hills
 Parish Network
 Steering Group

MINUTES BHPN STEERING GROUP
room

Wednesday 13th December 2017 at 14.00

AONB meeting

Attendance:

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

1. Minutes of recent meetings circulated previously:

- AGM minutes June 29 2017 - agreed
- Minutes and actions arising from MP meeting November 10 2017 – agreed and CB to follow up with their PAs re MP for reports on their actions. **CB**

2. Finances

Current account balance £922.00.

Invoices for 2017-2018 subs due to be issued in Jan which should restore balance to around £2,500. New member – Otterford parish of TDBC has joined. CB to circulate a list of current members with a map to stg gp. **CB**

Agreed not to take up an offer from Cosmic, the Website host of an annual contract for between 4 and 12 hours site work. The annual maintenance of the site is already £150 and we can get advice by phone whenever required.

3. Reports from work groups

a Communications – Broadband GL

- Broad band leaflet printed and circulated in early October to all member parishes
- A number of areas in parishes are now connected via Gigaclear superfast fttp in Yacombe, Churchinford, Rawridge, Upottery, Smeatharpe, Clayhidon, Ford Street. Delays partly due to restrictions on per property funding and access for trenches coupled with a one year delay in CDS approving the Gigaclear rollout. **CB**
- Gigaclear will eventually connect up to 86,000 properties, design of trenching yet to be approved by CDS.

b Every property passed will be supplied with a connection pot.

- Devon’s Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee is no longer making its meetings public, thus reducing accountability for the roll out of superfast broadband and the activities of CDS.; this is being strongly contested. The Devon and Somerset broadband programme is the largest in England, running at the slowest pace with, as yet, no CDS fibre is in the ground **JP**

c Disappointing ruling by the Advertising Standards Authority that has approved the description of fibre-to-the-cabinet as ‘fibre broadband’ which does not supply comparable speeds. **GL/CB**

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Traffic, Transport and Highways

- JP, NP and KP will meet to collate final results from the parish surveys.
- Discussion re the interpretation of the AONB/BHPN stance re improvements to A303/A30, this will need to be carefully stated in the TTH leaflet. The AONB Management group had been split 50/50, with those in favour of the dualling scheme at Monkton being very clear that whatever is done must be in keeping with the area and not environmentally obtrusive. The BHPN view was that the large schemes at Monkton were over-engineered and intrusive, and that moneys would be better directed toward improving the junctions and crossing points for local residents through the Hills.
- Another bid for funding to purchase a 16 seat minibus is in progress, hope to hear result in February. The old vehicle has been sold. Hoping to get Parishes Together funding to assist in

start up costs of around £5k.

- Looking to find a central garage/barn/shed space to keep the vehicle undercover. Discussing whether it will be feasible to operate to a schedule (with Section 22 permissions) or operate member pick up on a Section 19 notice. An E- W route is needed currently, there are a number of N-S public service bus routes in operation
- Signage and finger posts are being replaced in Devon and Somerset, but generally at Parish councils' expense.
- HGV routing is still causing problems, need to encourage discussion between the two highways authorities via MPs.

Planning

- AONB has re-circulated its current Management plan for comment prior to the development of the next 5 year plan in 2019, what is it used for, is it a valuable document etc. Most in agreement that this is a useful plan, some concern re the increased leaning on sustainability factors by Local Authorities when considering local planning applications. Several Neighbourhood Plans have been delayed several times in the EDDC area, seemingly to avoid agreeing opportunities for small local developments which might increase the sustainability of some communities.

4. Winter general meeting January 18

- Venue is the function room at the Holman Clavel Inn, Otterford. Bar will be available.
- No charge for use of the room, agreed to ask for small nibbles to be made available at cost.
- Agenda: 7 pm for 7.30 start
 - Brief introduction from chair
 - Working group activities from each group leader
 - Invite Tricia Comrie of the Transition Group Repair Café to give a short talk on activities.
 - Invite member parishes to give case studies of their completed projects in the year
 - General discussion.
 - Close by 9.30

5. Date of next meeting

Steering Group to meet if necessary prior to General meeting, otherwise afterwards to pick up on points made by members.