

Blackdown Hills
 Parish Network
 Steering Group

MINUTES BHPN STEERING GROUP Thursday June 7th 2018 at 14.00 AONB meeting room

Attendance:

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

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Minutes of meeting of March 23 2018 were approved as circulated by LT.

2. Finances

Current account balance £1654.71

3. Reports from work groups

a Broadband (reported by CB from discussion with GL)

- Re slow progress on Gigaclear fibre roll out – Gigaclear are citing interference of land agents negotiating wayleave with individual landowners. Gigaclear routinely offer wayleave fees in line with NFU/CLA guidance. An article was published in Somerset County Gazette from Greenslade Taylor & Hunt, describing their offer to landowners being approached by Gigaclear to lay fibre through their property a service to achieve ‘best figure’ wayleave negotiation on their behalf. GTH are apparently using CAAV (Certified Association of Agricultural Valuers) guidelines to set individual landowners rates. GL has put GTH in touch with Gigaclear’s wayleave manager in order to expedite the process as there is a risk that delays will cause Gigaclear to withdraw altogether (as was the case in Worcester when the highways authority delayed permissions to lay fibre). Noted that the MD of GTH is married to Taunton Deane MP.
- Outcome of the meeting between DCMS Sec of State Matt Hancock and MPs Rebecca Pow, Neil Parish and Marcus Fysh re the excessively slow progress of Connecting Devon & Somerset in letting lots to broadband providers, as well as their failure to claim clawback from BT wrt Phase 1 completion. DCMS is to investigate.
- Devon Scrutiny committee has published a set of recommendations, which is with CDS for review, and due to be implemented in Devon in May. At the time of reporting (early June) there was no information available regarding the CDS response, nor whether Somerset would adopt the same set of recommendations (SCC was invited to participate in the review process but declined, Rebecca Pow has taken this up with SCC)
- General feeling is that the joint county approach is not achieving the economies of scale promised, nor effective delivery in comparison with other counties across the country.
- Added problem for CDS is the rumoured likely closure of Airband who contracted to install fixed broadband via aerials in N and W Devon, but undertook some installation without planning permission.
- Discussed these points and decided that a news item could be developed by the action group, following the original Stg Gp letter sent April 2018 to MPs & Leaders of the County Councils, acknowledged by all but Devon, followed by a letter from Somerset (David Hall) refuting all the facts presented.

**CB GL
 AW**

b Traffic, Transport and Highways

- BHPN stg gp members HS, KP, JP, AW and NP and co-ordinator CB, attended a meeting rapidly convened by Neil Parish MP and prompted by serious HGV issues experienced in Clayhidon. This brought together local councillors with Highways reps from Devon and Somerset. Stg Gp has previously requested such a meeting to look at the similar wider issues in the AONB and particularly on county boundary and relating to signage, access, HGV routing etc. Neil Parish has

requested a further discussion with the same group in 6 months; at the meeting BHPN agreed to co-ordinate correspondence with parishes, CB currently following up request for guidance from the Highways officers as to the information they need from parishes. The meeting was not minuted, CB to collate subsequent emails to and from Donna Evans, Clayhidon & Hemyock clerk and circulate.

c

CB

- TTH leaflet edits agreed and CB to produce final version for approval before printing.

Planning

CB

- LT to consider dates for a planning workshop in the early autumn, looking at issues relating to new NPPF recommendations, guidance for parishes etc.

LT

4. East Devon Community River Catchment Conference Fri 19 October 2018

Tim Youngs joined the mtg to talk about this proposed conference. Agreed that he will bring the item to the AGM on July 6th.

5. AGM

- Venue is Throgmorton Hall, Dunkeswell on July 6th 2018
- **Agenda:**
 - **Apologies for absence**
 - **Minutes of AGM June 2018**
 - **Chair's report**
 - **Accounts 2017-2018**
 - **Election of Steering Group**
 - **East Devon Community River Catchment Conference Fri 19 October 2018 – Tim Youngs**
 - **Reports from action groups**
 - **Traffic, Transport and Highways – KP/JP**
 - **Broadband & Communications - GL**
 - **Planning – LT & Penny Mills CPRE rep if available**
 - **AOB**

6 Date of next meeting

After AGM as required.