

Blackdown Hills
 Parish Network
 Steering Group

MINUTES BHPN STEERING GROUP Friday 15 February 2019 14.30 AONB meeting Room

Attendance:

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

1 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Minutes of meeting of October 26 2018 were approved.

2. Finances

Current balance £586.21.

Invoices for parish subscriptions have been issued for the 2019-2020 financial year, payment requested by June 30 2019. This replaces the previous practice of invoicing retrospectively within the financial year as some parishes preferred this approach.

3. Steering Group membership

Jocelyn Pritchard and Neil Punnett are moving to Cumbria in March, leaving two vacancies on the steering group.

HS thanked them for their engagement and input, they will be missed.

Subscribing parishes to be notified that they will be invited to nominate representatives to the Steering Group after the May elections, to be sent to all parishes, may encourage more membership.

CB

Steering Group recommended that this is accompanied by information on the work of the BHPN over the last year, including contributing to the reversal of gritting policy, broadband profile, MPs meeting etc.

PCs will be offered the opportunity to hear from a member of the steering group at PC or APM meetings.

4. MP request for statement regarding rural planning

Parliamentary secretary to Neil Parish requested a comment from BHPN on rural planning policy.

Discussed and suggestions were made that the sustainability criterion is in need of redefinition to retain flexibility for rural communities.

Rural catchments need to be redefined.

The current definition of a rural community actually describes an urban community.

KP to forward draft paragraph to CB

KP/CB asap

5. MP request for points re rural housing

Assistant to Rebecca Pow spoke with CB immediately before the MP was due to meet Julian Glover (leader of Environment Review) asking for any extra points re rural housing concerns. Points included were concerns re cost, proportion of affordable vs market homes, appropriateness of design in rural areas, exception sites (and abuse thereof), overload on already stretched infrastructures without upgrade to accommodate new build, concerns re public transport, connectivity in general (inc broadband). Feedback requested, none received to date.

Discussion centred around the connectivity issue, in particular broadband. GL updated mtg on progress of the revised CDS plan to complete to a later deadline at no extra cost. Rebecca Pow met Treasury minister to remove what appears to be a

bureaucratic blockage (State Aid extension beyond contractual deadline, decision lies in EU). GL recommended that the issue needs much more public visibility, possibility the Gigaclear may pull out altogether (as was the case in similar circumstance in Worcester) which would then require CDS to appoint a new contractor and the expense of

7. **AOB**

a **[AONB Management Plan consultation](#)**

Stg gp to discuss and respond before deadline on 30th November.

all by
29/11/2018

8. **Date of next meetings**

- **MP mtg November 16 at 2.30 Angersleigh Meeting Room.**
- **Rescheduled meeting with CDS/Gigaclear either 23rd or 19th November**
- **Stg group mtg or email discussion after these and before 30 Nov deadline for AONB management plan consultation.**
- We are shortly to lose Jocelyn and Neil to Northumbria Thoughts re new recruits to the steering group?
- Neil Parish has asked for a paragraph to summarise what needs changing on planning (exception sites)/any requests, so he can put it in a letter to the Secretary of State.
- Had a call from one of Rebecca Pow's assistants last Monday, 2h before she went to meet Julian Glover (leading the Environment review) – she wanted any extra points for her to add to rural housing concerns. I spoke with the assistant for around 15 mins, repeated the various concerns re cost, proportion of affordable vs market homes, appropriateness of design in rural areas, exception sites (and abuse thereof), overload on already stretched infrastructures without upgrade to accommodate new build, concerns re public transport, connectivity in general (inc Broadband). Have asked for feedback following the meeting (none yet).
- Bob would like the Steering Group to look at the draft terms of reference being developed for the AONB management group before they meet on March 7.