

Blackdown Hills
Parish Network
Steering Group

MINUTES BHPN STEERING GROUP Monday 6 June 2019 14.30 AONB meeting Room

Attendance:

Heather Stallard	Chair, Hemyock PC	Daniel Lazar (in loco MB)	Membury PC
Catherine Bass	Co-ordinator		
Graham Long	Upottery PC	Apologies	
Alison Weekes	Clayhidon PC	Mike Bell	Membury PC
Bob Nelson	Broadhembury PC	Ken Pearson	Clerk to Stockland PC
Lisa Turner	AONB Planning Officer		

1 **Apologies:** MB has stood down from the Steering Group, due to ill health. DL is attending this meeting in his stead in advance of the AGM at which he may stand for election to the Steering Group.

LT has also announced her retirement from the Group, having been involved since its inception. As Planning Office for the AONB she remains available to assist the BHPN in any way she can.

2. **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

Minutes of meeting June 6 2019 were approved with minor amendments. There were no matters arising other than agenda items below relating to Finance and the AGM.

3. **Finances**

Current balance £1173.66. All Saints has paid a new subscription (£ 60.00), around 10 more parishes have yet to re-subscribe. Deadline June 30. Annual accounts were circulated, showing a relatively stable financial position, income still awaited from a number of previous subscribing parishes. Comments regarding the cost of the web site through Cosmic were made (£270 in 2018-2019). BN remarked that Broadhembury took their business from Cosmic due to cost; CB to investigate usage of the site and discuss at the next meeting.

CB

4. **Updates on AGM invitations and agree agenda:**

On the basis of invitation responses received so far, the AGM Agenda will be as follows, the meeting is at 7 for 7.30 on June 26 at Clayhidon Parish Hall:

Meeting topic:

Protecting Rural Assets to be Sustainable: the pros and cons of taking on a Community Asset and providing services in the Blackdown Hills

- 1) Welcome from the chair
- 2) Guest speaker - Blackdown Practice General Manager Karen Button
The work of the Practice and Social Prescribing
- 3) AGM business:
 - a) Chair's report
 - b) Financial report
 - c) Election of steering group members (at least 3 new members needed)
- 4) District Councillor introductions following May elections.
- 5) **Community Assets and providing services in the Blackdown Hills**
 - a) Stockland Community Pub Limited – The Kings Arms project
 - b) Churchstanton Community Shop
 - c) Parish self-help programmes
 - d) Hemyock pavements, public toilets and carpark
- 6) AOB

CB

CB to circulate agenda to all clerks, parish reps, District Councillors

5. Update in Action groups

In view of the forthcoming AGM and likelihood of a refreshed Steering Group the meeting decided to review the three action group leaflets at the next meeting when new action group subgroups are known. Brief reports were offered as below

- **Planning/ Traffic Transport Highways**

Re upgrade of A358. There is considerable evidence emerging that the A358 upgrade from Ilminster bypass to the M5 may not happen at all as the new route proposed involved developing a second junction on the M5, a matter not put forward for discussion.

- **Broadband:**

GL reported on the confusing situation regarding the current situation between all parties involved in the broadband roll out for Devon and Somerset. CDS now appear to be blaming Gigaclear for the delay, and the delay is likely to continue to the year end. The issue is becoming ever more closely tied to Brexit and the relationship with the EU as to when any money can be released to complete the job. It is not without the bounds of possibility that Gigaclear will withdraw altogether, since Scotland is now on a path to get superfast broad band to all communities as soon as possible, offering Gigaclear an opportunity to bid there.

GL asked the steering group to sanction his speaking on behalf of the BHPN at a conference, Sense about Science on June 16, and to make a written submission to the EFRA committee chaired by Neil Parish which is conducting another enquiry into rural broadband (deadline 24/6/2019); this will follow his previous contention regarding Rural Apartheid.

GL

All agreed.

6. AOB:

Election of third BHPN rep to the AONB Management Group following departure of Jocelyn Pritchard. Agreed to circulate nomination forms to all BH parishes. Nominees must be parish councillors and submit completed forms before August 15.

Nominations to be circulated to subscribing parishes for consideration and voting in time for the Autumn meeting of the AONB Management group.

CB

7. Date of next meeting tba following AGM