

# Parish Network Steering Group

MINUTES BHPN STEERING GROUP

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Haccombe, Membury

**Attendance:**

Heather Stallard	Chair, Hemyock parish rep	Mike Canham	Otterford PC
Catherine Bass	Co-ordinator	Roger Habgood	Cllr Monument, SW&TD
Graham Long	Upottery PC		
Daniel Lazar	Membury PC	<b>Apologies</b>	
Ken Pearson	Clerk to Stockland PC	Alison Weekes	Clayhidon PC
Alex Stevens	Upottery PC		
Bob Nelson	Broadhembury PC		

- Apologies & Welcome:** Apologies from AW. **Agreed** that Stephen Tetlow be dropped from the steering group, no interaction since co-option. Welcomed Mike Canham as new parish rep to the AONB management committee. He commented on the Devoncentricity of the steering group. Discussion followed regarding the relative reluctance of Somerset parishes to engage, while noting that there are fewer Somerset than Devon parishes in the AONB boundary (14 and 25 respectively). Agreed to add reports from the AONB management group as a standing agenda item. **CB**
- Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**  
Minutes of meeting July 29<sup>th</sup> 2019 were approved, there were no matters arising
- Finances**

  - Balance £1,198.66. No further subscriptions received for the current year 2019/2020. Total subs received £1722.45 from 17 parishes of 39 (2 new subscribers: Chardstock and All Saints, 4 declined to renew: Tatworth & Forton, Combe Raleigh, Cotleigh and Neroche).
  - Cosmic website host has offered to add SSL registration to the website for £100 +VAT pa. in addition to the annual host fee of £125 + VAT and biannual domain name re-registration c £50. GL commented that a Google free site would offer registration for nothing. CB to discuss with Cosmic and ask for reduced/free SSL registration. **CB** asap
- Review of advisory leaflets:**  
Housing Planning/Broadband/Traffic Transport Highways.  
Agreed that the **Housing and Planning leaflet** needs least factual amendment; CB will check with Lisa Turner re the latest NPPF revisions. **CB**  
KP commented that there is too much uncontrolled development with minimal commitment to affordable housing. CPRE views have not been taken into account at LA planning offices. 'Sustainability' criteria are too rigidly adhered to particularly in East Devon.  
**Broadband** leaflet update in abeyance until there is more news on how roll-out is to be achieved since Gigaclear were relieved of the CDS contract. AS suggested a link between housing issues and broadband access – estate agents have an indirect interest in broadband access as an influence on house pricing.  
**Traffic Transport and Highways:** could be updated to suggest more positive actions open to parishes. Awareness raising in general re opportunities for e-vehicles – this is very evident and much easier in urban areas, but not impossible in rural situations. Public transport – funding mechanisms at county level need revision.
- Revision of 2011 BHPN Community Plan**  
Agreed to invite comment from Somerset and Devon Community Councils whether they have found it of value. How much have member parishes, district and county councillors used the 2011 document as a reference?
- MP meeting:**  
List of topics from previous meetings with the MPs is essentially unchanged. A General Election may be called before the MP meeting date (Nov 15) in which case

the meeting may be deferred, although Neil Parish and Rebecca Pow may be prepared to meet as Prospective Parliamentary Candidates.

Agreed to prepare as follows for the meeting:

250 wd statements from each action group will be submitted under an umbrella statement introducing a new BHPN Rural Strategy as the driver connecting the three existing working group areas.

GL/KP/HS/  
BN/AS

Statements to be produced by 4/11/19 to be available to send to the MPs/PPCs in advance.

HS invited BN to the chair the meeting should it go ahead.

If the meeting does not happen, statements will be held over for a future meeting.

KP suggested that the BHPN organises an election hustings with an experienced moderator in the case of a deferred MP meeting.

(CB)

**7. AOB**

**Govt report on future of National Parks and AONBs**

AS pointed out the necessity for more resources for AONBs to retain their character without necessarily achieving full NP status. RH pointed out the need to ensure statutory consultee status for AONBs and the need for planners to consult and act on advice.

Dorset AONBs have been keen to amalgamate as a NP although no mention of the contiguity with ED and BH AONBs.

Difficulty arises because the AONB staff are county council employees rather than employees of a separate entity as are NP employees.

No evidence from BHAONB that there has been any consultation with other local AONB managers on a way forward. The Steering Group may suggest a joint meeting of the three managers, HS to discuss with Tim Youngs.

HS

**8. Date of next meeting:**

**Monday December 9 2019 in Culm Pyne, Heather Stallard's house (later deferred to Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 2020, ad time and venue).**

The Meeting closed at 16.15, thanks were extended to DL for hosting.