

Minutes of Meeting of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee
held on Wednesday 6th July 2022, at 8.00pm
Online via Zoom

Present: Councillor A Miller (AM) (Chair), Councillor G Widdowfield (GW), J Fletcher (JF), S Waller (SW), A Knight (AK), J Irwin (JI), S Oxley (SO) and R Sheen (RS)

Minutes: C Callen (Clerk, Barton-le-Clay Parish Council) (CC)

1. Welcome and Introductions

AM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

These were received from Councillor N Day, R Taylor, T Wall and T Pattenden. T Pattenden advised that he would need to step down from the Committee going forward but wished the Committee well with the good work they are doing.

3. Declarations of Interest

AM reminded members of the procedures regarding declaration of interests. There were no new declarations.

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

AM/CC still to contact local Schools regarding the Plan. SO suggested a meeting with the Governors and Trustees of The Pyramid Schools Trust, which covers all the local schools.

ACTION – SO to arrange meeting for September.

CC/GW still to arrange a meeting with the local Doctors Practice to discuss the Plan.

ACTION – CC to arrange a suitable date with the Practice Manager.

CC has spoken to BRCC regarding the Housing Needs Survey results. Key workers were not specifically targeted in the survey but those in local employment were, to assess the eligibility for affordable housing for those with local connections. They confirm that the house prices assessment was correct in the report.

The Greensand Trust are working on the Green Infrastructure Plan – CC has provided them with licence details to complete the mapping work. Further information is awaited once the preparation work is completed. AK advised that they required details of the trees recently planted around the Village and of any plans for further planting in the Autumn as part of the Queens Green Canopy.

ACTION – CC to update the Greensand Trust re trees accordingly.

5. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2022

A Miller **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes from the meeting held on 24th May 2022, **SECONDED** by J Fletcher and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

6. Update from the CBC Neighbourhood Involvement Officer

The CBC Neighbourhood Involvement Officer has provided feedback following discussions at the last meeting, which was shared with members ahead of this meeting. She is still chasing details on the Article 4 process for removing Class AA PD Rights.

Based on this, it was agreed that the Plan should state that it would resist applications for covering front gardens with impermeable surfaces for parking (>5m) – in line with current planning rules, rather than have a separate policy.

It was also agreed to include a section on 'Community Aspirations, Ideas and Actions' within the Plan, as other Parishes have.

CC reported that the Planning Application for development of up to 500 homes East of Barton-le-Clay had been approved at the CBC Development Management Committee meeting earlier in the day. It was agreed that these should be reflected in the Plan.

7. Consider draft introduction to Plan

JF and AM have drawn up draft introduction, history summary, background and scope of the Plan, vision and objectives wording. This was shared with members ahead of the meeting. Members thanked them for their efforts and requested additional time to review the documents in more detail before feeding back any comments via CC for further consideration by the Committee.

ACTION – All members to review documents and feedback via CC accordingly.

Initial observations were made. It was noted that the Water Mill was missing from the Grade 2 listed buildings. The Picturesque and Historic Village document also stated that all 3 Public Houses in the Village were listed as Assets of Community Value. This is not true.

ACTION – JF and AM agreed to investigate the process for making something an Asset of Community Value and also look into what other things could be considered, for example the Post Office. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

In the Introduction document, AK suggested that a note should be added at the end to state that the Plan should be recognised by Central Beds Council. In addition, it was felt that a strong statement should be made on page 3 regarding any potential large-scale developments being considered in the future, outside allocations within the CBC Local Plan.

ACTION – RS agreed to word a suitable statement opposing a ‘Greenwoods’ type development. This will be sent to CC for circulation and approval by the Committee.

8. Consider History Society information for Plan

The local History Society have provided an initial draft document. This was shared with members ahead of the meeting. Members confirmed that they found this very interesting, particularly to understand how the Village has evolved. It was agreed that this was the sort of information that should be included in the plan, encouraging civic pride in the Village.

ACTION – CC to confirm to the History Society that they are on the right lines with what they are preparing, to include pictures to support the document.

9. Update from the consultation with local Businesses

AM has completed the delivery of the Business Newsletters. CC reported that no further responses had been received.

10. Consider Grant Application for Design Code

Locality provide grants and technical support for Neighbourhood Planning. Guidance notes were shared with members ahead of the meeting. The allocation of certain areas around the Village suitable for development would want to be included in the final plan.

R Sheen **PROPOSED** applying for an additional Technical Support Grant up to a maximum £8k to produce a Design Code to support the main Neighbourhood Plan; **SECONDED** by A Miller and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

ACTION – CC to complete the initial Expression of Interest form and subsequent application form, supported by AM.

11. Date of next meeting

It was agreed to meet again on Monday 8th August 2022 at 7.30pm online via Zoom. A review of the Timeline will be undertaken at the next meeting.

Members also discussed the update regarding the ‘Greenwoods’ planning application.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm