

Minutes of Meeting of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee
held on Tuesday 4th October 2022, at 7.30pm
Online via Zoom

Present: Councillor A Fletcher (AF) (Chair), J Fletcher (JF), S Waller (SW), J Irwin (JI), R Taylor (RT) and Councillor N Day (ND)
Councillor G Widdowfield (GW) joined from 8.20pm

In attendance: J Balaam (JB), Director of Development, The Greensand Trust

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

AM welcomed everyone to the meeting. All members introduced themselves to JB.

2. Apologies

These were received from A Knight, T Wall, S Oxley and R Sheen.
Councillor Widdowfield advised that she would be joining later following attendance at the Beds Police Commissioner's Town and Parish Council event.

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

The planned meeting with the Governors and Trustees of The Pyramid Schools Trust, which covers all the local schools, has been delayed until after October half-term.

ACTION – SO to arrange meeting.

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/GW.

CC/AF to complete the application for the Locality Grant for Technical Support funding towards production of a Design Guide, to support the Neighbourhood Plan.

ACTION – CC/AF to complete application.

5. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th August 2022

A Fletcher **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes from the meeting held on 15th August 2022, **SECONDED** by J Fletcher and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

6. Greensand Trust re Green Infrastructure Plan

JB introduced himself and gave a brief outline on the work the Greensand Trust undertake locally, including the Clophill Lakes Nature Reserve project.

JB worked with the previous Neighbourhood Plan committee in 2013/14 to start drawing up a Green Infrastructure Plan for Barton-le-Clay but it was never completed. This included mapping and consultations with residents and local landowners. Much of this background work will still be relevant.

JB gave a presentation on what the GI Plan includes and areas to consider, both private and public land, allotments, churchyards, hedgerows, public rights of way, playareas, etc. The GI Plan will help to support the environmental policies within the main NP and appropriate designation can help to protect green spaces within the Village when development is being considered. The GI looks at accessibility, biodiversity, landscape, historic heritage, etc.

Once the GI Plan is completed, the Greensand Trust can provide support for specific projects, as resources allow.

Following the presentation, JB agreed to reassess the work completed in 2014, particularly the feedback from consultations. He will provide the maps for review to ensure all green spaces are included.

It was suggested he might wish to attend the Christmas Lights Switch-on event on Sunday 27th November – this could reach a wider audience for consultation, rather than those just interested in green spaces.

A meeting with local landowners and farmers will also be considered. This could link up with the review of local rights of way.

Central Beds Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan is looking at the current fragmented footpath and bridleway network. A review of cycling and walking routes across Central Bedfordshire is being considered – the GI Plan can support any response to the consultation when it is launched for the Barton-le-Clay area.

The timescale for completion of the Plan is likely to be early 2023.

ACTION – CC will share the presentation slides with all members of the Committee. CC will share the summaries from the recent surveys with JB. JB will provide the map pack documents for review.

(GW joined the meeting at 8.20pm)

(RT and JB left the meeting at 8.30pm)

7. Update regarding Community Assets

AF provided an overview of the process for making something an ‘Asset of Community Value’. Members considered any possible assets within the Village that could be considered. Whilst it was acknowledged that the current Post Office provided a valuable service, there are other site options that could operate a Post Office counter, if necessary. Likewise, whilst there is strong support for retaining The Bull as a public house, there are still other pubs within the Village. Listed building regulations should protect the character of several local buildings, including The Bull and the Watermill. Members agreed to investigate whether the library should be considered as a Community Asset.

ACTION – AF/CC to investigate the nomination process for the library.

8. Consider Dementia-Friendly Communities strategy for Plan

AF provided a draft strategy for inclusion within the Plan. This was agreed.

9. Updated Timeline for Plan

AF reviewed the progress against the updated Timeline for the Plan and confirmed that the Committee were broadly on track. The GI Plan is the main priority.

JF had previously provided a draft of the Plan, incorporating areas already discussed. He requested that members review and provide any feedback or comments, as appropriate, so that it can be amended if necessary.

10. Date of next meeting

It was agreed to meet again on Thursday 17th November 2022 at 7.30pm online via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm