

Minutes of Meeting of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee
held on Thursday 23rd March 2023, at 7.33pm
Online via Zoom

Present: Councillor A Fletcher (AF) (Chair), Councillors G Widdowfield (GW) and N Day (ND), J Fletcher (JF), A Knight (AK), S Oxley (SO) and S Waller (SW)

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

AF welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no visitors in attendance.

2. Apologies for absence

These were received from R Sheen and J Irwin.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

House owners to be contacted for permission to use images of their properties on the NP cover sheet.

ACTION – CC write to house owners.

5. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2023

The minutes were approved.

6. Update regarding the Green Infrastructure Plan

The Greensand Trust have completed most of the fieldwork around the Village and hope to have completed the first draft by end of March. They will provide a breakdown of remaining work shortly. They will be attending the 'Big Help Out' event on 8th May to complete their public consultation on the GI Plan.

7. Update regarding the Design Code

RS, JF and CC met with the representative from Aecom on 21st March to undertake a tour of the Village to understand the kind of design features required as part of the proposed Guide. CC provided an update from the meeting, including an indication on timelines. It is hoped a first draft should be available by mid-May.

8. Update following the meeting with the Doctors Surgery

GW and CC met with the Practice Manager at Barton Surgery on 9th March. GW provided an overview of the meeting discussion. Whilst the Practice is currently operating well within guidelines for Patient/GP ratios, it was acknowledged that the demographic for both Barton and Gooseberry Hill areas included a larger proportion of elderly residents utilising the Surgeries. The proposed new development will impact the Practice. Recruitment of doctors and nurses is a struggle.

Members felt it was good to maintain closer ties with the Practice and support them with any plans for expansion. The possibility of a satellite surgery in Silsoe was discussed, particularly with the new Ward boundaries now covering Barton and Silsoe and shared interests.

ACTION – CC to contact the Parish Council in Silsoe to discuss their views on medical provision.

It was agreed that the situation with dentist provision should also be considered.

ACTION – AF to contact the two practices within the Village and report back at the next meeting.

9. Review Plan section regarding Schools

JF and AF provided a draft section for the NP covering Education, following the meeting with the Governors and Trustees of the Pyramid Schools Trust in November.

SO confirmed that the section gave an accurate summary of the current position, particularly with the unknown future consultation and timescale regarding any proposed move from 3-Tier to 2-Tier education provision. There is also no update regarding the proposed new 'primary/lower' school included in the plans for the development East of Barton.

SO reported that Arnold Academy results were holding up well, post Covid, and that they are due an Ofsted inspection in the near future.

Members agreed that an additional paragraph to cover Further Education colleges in the catchment area should be added to the section.

ACTION – CC to update Education Section with Further Education colleges and JF to then add the approved section to the Draft NP.

10. Agree attendance at the ‘Big Help Out’ event on 8th May

AF gave an overview of the plans to hold a Community event at the Village Hall on Monday 8th May. This is being organised by the Rotary Club, Blooming Barton and the Parish Council.

In line with the King’s wishes, this will highlight Community activities and local volunteering opportunities, including the launch of the Coronation Community Garden project, within Barton-le-Clay. The Greensand Trust have confirmed attendance to consult on the draft GI Plan. The NP will share their stall to engage with residents – volunteers were sought to help out on the stall during the morning (10am-1pm). Several members confirmed they would be able to attend.

11. Date of next meeting

It was agreed to meet again on Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7.30pm online via Zoom.

ACTION – CC to send out reminder ahead of the event on 8th May for members to attend.

The meeting closed at 8.19pm