

Botley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday, 1st. March, 2017

7.30 p.m. at the Botley Centre Committee Room

Present: Cllr. Colin Mercer, Cllr. Graham Hunter, Cllr. Lesley Bowler, Cllr. Ron Clark, Cllr. Sue Grinham, Gerald Bradley, Hugh Dixon, David Grinham, Bob Nimmo.

Apologies: Cllr. Jeff Jones, Derek Oswald, Kevin Barton.

Cllr. Steve Radmore, Cllr. Vanessa Bord and Jean Sutton do not wish to be members of the Steering Committee but will continue working on aspects of the Plan

Before the business of the meeting could commence it was necessary to deal with the matter of the validity of those in attendance. It has recently been brought to the BPC Chairman's notice that the Parish Council rules state that members of sub-committees must be formally appointed at a Council meeting. Anyone else can attend sub-committee meetings and speak as appropriate, but cannot vote.

Therefore only Cllr Mercer, Cllr Hunter, Cllr Bowler, Cllr Grinham and Hugh Dixon were valid voting members for this meeting.

1. Appointment of a Steering Group Chairman

(i) For the meeting

After some discussion it was decided that, as there was as yet no designated chairman, the meeting was required to select someone to chair the evening's meeting.

Colin Mercer (CM) was proposed by Hugh Dixon (HD), and seconded by Graham Hunter (GH). The vote was 3 to 2 in favour.

(ii) Permanent Group Chairman

David Grinham had previously indicated that he was willing to stand as Group Chairman if the members wished it, and had made particular efforts to be present at this meeting. However, the Chairman said that this proposal could not proceed until David was appointed at a PC meeting. Some members, however, thought that the election could go ahead, to be ratified by the PC later, and there was vigorous discussion.

Eventually HD proposed that this item should head the agenda for the next meeting. Meanwhile David, Gerald Bradley and Bob Nimmo could be put forward for appointment at this month's council meeting. C M seconded and voting was three to two in favour.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting – 26.01.17

Acceptance was proposed by HD, seconded by GH and agreed unanimously.

3. **Matters arising**

- (i) **The Botley/Bishop's Waltham bridleway** will be discussed and established in the Plan.
- (ii) **The Tony Charles letter to EBC**, requesting a meeting to discuss the NP has received no reply. GH reported that at a recent EBC full meeting the Leader, Keith House, was questioned about the Borough's involvement with NPs, but failed to reply. However, local planning authorities are legally compelled to assist with such Plans and the Leader will be pressured on this.

It is noted that a Neighbourhood Plan can be put in place even if there is no Local Plan.

4. **SLAA working group meetings with Tony Charles (TC) 24th/28th. February** (CM's notes for these meetings are on file.)

- (i) Principal points arising:-
 - We can expect TC's first draft in about a fortnight.
 - Much of the time was spent considering all the sites from the EBC SLAA, 2015. Constraints for every site were identified.
 - It is noted that the NP must acknowledge total housing need for the Borough. It will also acknowledge the PUSH numbers, although these carry no legal weight.
 - The particular housing needs of Botley have to be identified. Some work has been done on this already by the Housing sub-group. Affordable housing percentage is usually 35%, but as only 30% has been agreed at Boorley Park it may be possible to raise this for other Botley developments.
 - Housing at BO2 (SLAA-3-8-C and SLAA-3-9-C) was specifically discussed. TC thinks that it is almost certain to go ahead but there will be fewer than the 300 originally mooted because of pylons, rail line etc. He advised that we stay neutral, not objecting, because of the likely benefits to the village and the association with the by-pass, nor accepting it. However, if the development does happen we should extract every possible advantage from it.
 - There was clear advice that Botley has taken more than enough extra housing. The NP should support only small developments, and the BO2 special case if required. Together with the total additions to date this should be a very strong defence in any planning appeal.

CM said that Botley Parish Council will defend all major planning applications. They will be taking vigorous action over the two applications south of Maddoxford Lane and the Persimmon site at Broadoak/Woodhouse Lane. TC will provide a template letter for action on the latter.

GH commented that a PR group had been appointed for the HCC sites and he expected that they would approach our group before long.

Susan Grinham (SG) then requested that we ask TC what disadvantages there might be in objecting to BO2. It was agreed that the Secretary will put this question to TC, using SG's wording. We will await his reply before making further decisions on this. However, it was noted that if BO2 becomes a strategic site in the Local Plan then any opposition in our Plan would probably result in EBC rejecting the NP as not in conformity.

(ii) The four items requested by TC had already been sent, or would be very shortly.

Following from this report there was further discussion regarding finances for the by-pass. HCC were requiring 45% developers funding – where was this to come from? The Chairman reported that Rob Humby, HCC Environment and Transport lead, has assured him that the county is fully committed to the scheme.

It was agreed that the committee will meet together to read and give opinions on the draft Housing Paper, when received.

5. Clarification on sub-group headings

In addition to Housing, the groups to date are:-

Transport and Highways –

CM and HD (Overall plan in draft form)

Footpaths and Byways (now plus Bridleways) –

Vanessa Bord and Stephen Radmore

Medical –

SG and RC. Suggested actions are discussion with local surgeries and approach to Clinical Commissioning Group for W. Hants. It was pointed out that this section could cover services other than GPs.

Education –

Kevin Barton. Note to Secretary to be forwarded to CM

Heritage –

GH and HD. A draft has been produced, headed by a Botley History by Dennis Stokes, who has now retired from this group. Rosemary and Bob Nimmo offered to see if they could contribute anything, and RC will help also.

The Secretary has seen Localities guidance that sections of the Plan not directly involving planning and land use can be put in a separate annex, which will not then be subject to EBC approval.

6. Exhibition and Consultation

This will be undertaken after the committee has seen TC's Housing Paper. For discussion in due course.

7. Next actions on Publicity

The draft communications plan, kindly prepared by Gerald Bradley, has been circulated. He suggested that a blueprint of the NP structure and intent should be prepared to re-inform the community of our purposes and encourage further participation. More diverse representation would be a good thing.

8. Date of next meeting

Thursday, 23rd. March, 7.15 in the Committee Room

Rosemary Nimmo
Secretary

12. 03.17