

Minutes of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting 2nd August 2023 at 7.30pm

In Attendance: Nigel Aldis, Patricia Hall, Peter Holden, Michael Pearson, Rob Neville, Amanda Wade and Jo Graves (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Ian Smith.

2. To nominate and elect a Chair of the Steering Group

Michael Pearson was nominated/elected as Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2023 were approved as a true record of decisions made and signed by the Chair.

4. To agree a regular date/time of meetings

It was **RESOLVED** to hold meetings on the first Friday of the month at 10.30am at the Library at the Drift unless otherwise arranged.

Dates agreed for 2023:

1st September, 6th October, 3rd November and 1st December.

5. Blunham Demographics

The Clerk had distributed the figures from CBC showing the split of housing types in Blunham.

ACTION: Clerk asked to obtain a further breakdown of figures. Clerk asked to set up Sharepoint to circulate documents.

6. East West Rail

It was agreed that there were other issues of more importance to consider than East West Rail, but that the impact would be considered later in the project.

7-10. Countryside, Village Amenities, New Housing Developments, Transport

There was a discussion covering how house builders would be looking for land. There was a discussion about the framework which had been circulated and it was agreed that all areas were relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan, further discussions included Electric vehicle charging and village amenities including the shop.

It was **RESOLVED** to set the area for the Neighbourhood Plan as the Blunham Parish Boundary. **ACTION: Clerk to advise CBC. Clerk to ask CBC ROW for a map showing all the public footpaths. Clerk was asked to obtain a large-scale map of Blunham for reference. Clerk to invite BRCC to a future meeting.**

11. Communication/Community Engagement Activities

The piece for the September Blunham Matters was agreed.

It was agreed that a mixture of community engagement activities would have the most impact. Ideas included a social village day, online and in person consultation and questionnaires. This will help focus the Steering Group onto what the most important issues are for residents.

It was agreed that all members of the Steering Group would send their consultation questions to Michael so they could be collated and discussed at the September meeting.

It was suggested that as ideas developed, sub-groups could be formed for the different subjects.

12. Locality Grant

There was a discussion about the Locality Grant and the use of a consultant, the current grant year ends on 31st March 2024, by which is also the deadline for any grant money to be used.

13. Agreed Action Points

Clerk:

Further breakdown of census figures.

Set up Sharepoint for sharing documents

Ask CBC about process of getting Neighbourhood Plan area agreed

Ask CBC Rights of Way for a map showing the public footpaths

Obtain a large-scale map of Blunham

Invite BRCC to a future meeting

Members:

Set of questions to Michael.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 1st September 2023 at 10.30am at Michael's Library, The Drift.

--There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm--

Chair_____

Date_____