

Minutes of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting 12th December 2023 at 10.30am

In Attendance: Michael Pearson (Chair), Nigel Aldis, Trish Hall, Richard Weedon, Peter Holden and Jo Graves (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Ian Smith, Amanda Harvey Wade and Phil Rose.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2023 were approved as a true record of decisions made and signed by the Chair.

3. Update on action points from previous meeting.

The Clerk advised that there was a dedicated page on the Blunham Parish Council website where the Minutes would be uploaded.

There was a discussion on progress on the Neighbourhood Plan spreadsheet, Richard asked that Stage 1 of the plan to be reviewed at the January meeting.

4. Debrief from the Open Day

There was a discussion about how to increase participation from all areas of the village, as the majority of the attendees were from the older part of the village. It was suggested about having an event at the Sports Pavilion on a Saturday morning when the football was taking place. There was a discussion about the practicalities and if there was enough space. The Clerk advised that there would be a limited budget for printing further flyers for another event before the end of the financial year. It was agreed to go to village events to showcase the Neighbourhood Plan.

There was also a suggestion to liaise with the school in order to ascertain the views of the younger residents of Blunham.

A spreadsheet had been produced of the responses to a range of questions with some themes developing which would be explored in the questionnaire.

Some themes:

Speeding – could there be a 20mph limit

Shop

No more houses

More village feel for any developments

Footpaths/green spaces

Footpath to the twin bridges and Barford

Accessible

More social/affordable housing

Moving village hall or sports field.

Other suggestions – mobile library and a banking hub.

5. To agree lead people on specific areas.

Trish volunteered to lead on planning.

6. Feedback from Blunham Parish Council regarding budget and Clerk hours

The Clerk advised that £2,500 had been included in the Blunham Parish Council budget for the Neighbourhood Plan and that from January the Clerk would be paid for an extra 4 hours per month to cover time spent working on the Neighbourhood Plan, the arrangement will be reviewed in March 2024.

7. Agreed action points from meeting

Richard asked about a standard form SLA and if CBC had one. Clerk to check with Jane Hubbard.

Richard asked the Clerk to request a hardcopy of the CBC Local Plan.

Explore options for using the Pavilion – Richard.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 12th January 2023 at 10.00am at Michael's Library, The Drift.

--There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.34am —

Chair _____

Date _____