

CLAVERDON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP

Minutes of Meeting April 20th 2015

Present : Councillor Simon Lawton : Councillor John Horner : Mrs. Joy Bacon : Ms. Monique Hope-Ross : Mrs. Anne Marshall : Mr. John Cronin : Mr. Dan O'Donnell : Mr. Mike Spiers : Mr. Charlie Waterworth : Mr. Andrew Williams : Mr. David Mitchell.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received in advance from : Mrs. Lorna Perkins

It should be noted that whilst an agenda was produced for the meeting, the discussion did not necessarily follow its order and the notes are therefore made under the relevant headings from that agenda.

1. *Introductions*

1.1 Councillor Lawton, as acting Chairman opened the meeting and invited each of the persons present to introduce themselves.

For the benefit of all present, Councillor Horner described the current situation in respect of The SDC Core Strategy, Neighbourhood Plans and related issues, noting that whilst The Inspector had come down strongly on the matter of Protecting the Green Belt, there are some concerns being expressed that some there are District Councillors who may try to force Green Belt building to take place. Needless to say, if that were to happen, Claverdon may find itself having an increased number of houses. On this subject, Mr. O'Donnell suggested that there also may be a threat of having also to take on some overspill numbers from Birmingham and/or Coventry. He therefore sees the way of controlling this has to be through the Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Horner responded saying that it has to be bourn in mind that a Neighbourhood Plan has to be in line with the principles of the Core Strategy, and if the Core Strategy were to change, then the Neighbourhood Plan would have to be brought in line. He also noted that The County Council was not keen on the SDC Dispersal Plan, as this would be likely to blocks of perhaps up to five houses, with single figure numbers of Affordable Housing scattered among them.

Emphasising the Green Belt issue, Councillor Horner added that it is important to keep the whole village as being washed over and not risk having fragmented areas. It was also noted that infill building within the Green Belt is permitted.

It is worth noting that it appears that Claverdon may not get any allocation of new houses other than can be absorbed by infill development, the inspectors report saying that :- Public Transport links need to be sustainable : Green Belt building should not be permitted : Areas chosen for new build should be where there is also likely to be employment : New development should not be sited where longer journey time and distance by car for the purpose of Schools, Work, Shops, Services etc.

1.2

The point was re-emphasised that Neighbourhood Plans are not simply about housing and building. Amongst many other issues the identification the preservation of open spaces should be adequately covered.

2 *Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Plan Team.*

2.1 *Modus Operandi / Governance.*

2.1.1 *Neighbourhood Plan Team Officers*

2.1.1.1 *On the matter of the ongoing chairman, The Acting Chairman commented that it is inappropriate that this should be held by a Parish Council Member and asked if there were any nominations. Mr. O'Donnell suggested Mr. Cronin be invited to take the position, and he in turn confirmed that he would be prepared to do so. There were no other nominations and Mr. Cronin was duly elected.*

2.1.1.2 *Councillor John Horner agreed to continue as Vice Chairman*

2.1.1.3 *Robert Lees agreed to act as Secretary, it being recognised that this is additional work to his duties as Clerk to The Council, and will be reimbursed accordingly. This was agreed with all in favour.*

2.1.1.4 *Councillor Lawton said that he has thus far taken the necessary steps to apply for Grants etc. and would be willing to continue as Treasurer for the duration of the project. This was agreed. A standard Budget Item should be included for each meeting.*

2.2 *What Decisions can be taken by the Neighbourhood Plan Group?*

2.2.1 *During the course of discussion it was made clear that The Group is in place to set the scene for The Village as a whole to decide the direction that development should take place, this to be determined through the use of a questionnaire. The finalised plan is to be ratified through a referendum for the whole Village.*

2.3 *How many needed to vote to carry forward a decision.*

2.3.1 *Agreed that this would be a simple majority of The Members present at the meeting. (Post meeting note : This would be in line with Parish Council procedure which includes that vote by proxy is not permitted.)*

2.4 *Approval of Financial Matters.*

2.4.1 *Councillor Lawton explained that as the grant has been obtained through the Parish Council, approval needs to be from there. Record of the finance will appear as a separate cost centre in the Parish Council Accounts.*

2.5 *Authorisation of Spend*

2.5.1 *This will go through the Parish Council*

2.6 *Number for a Quorum*

2.6.1 *The rule for Councils and which would apply to committees working groups etc. is 'Three or one third of the total membership, which ever is the greater'.*

2.7 *Register of Interests*

2.7.1 *It was agreed that a Register of Interests will be required to be completed by all, based on the form that Council Members are required to submit.*

Post Meeting Note :- Robert Lees will produce a suitable version.

3 Questionnaire

3.1 Areas for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan to be considered are :

3.1.1 Housing

3.1.1.1 It was asked whether the question here should be phrased such as 'Would you like XX numbers of houses built in The Village', but this was ruled out.

3.1.1.2 It was noted that if Green Belt Development cannot be used to meet any incoming affordable housing numbers that cannot be met by Infill Development, Mr. Cronin questioned whether it would be appropriate to suggest knocking down the Sheltered Housing Bungalows and replacing them with houses. It was pointed out that this would not be acceptable, not least because they are on Church Land and that any proposals for numbers of houses should include the caveat 'if land can be acquired.

3.1.1.3 It was suggested that the introduction to the section in the questionnaire should explain that as things stand at the present time, The Village may not be required to take additional housing under the SDC Core Strategy.

3.1.2 Transport

Not discussed.

3.1.3 Parking

3.1.3.1 Councillor Lawton said that the possibility of parking behind the Pavilion, on the Recreation Ground is being investigated initially with particular respect to football matches and training days. This could be considered for wider use.

3.1.4 Sports

Questions to be raised such as :-

3.1.4.1 How do you want the activity / use of the Recreation Field to be Developed?

3.1.4.2 Should joint use of sports facilities between The School and the Public be considered, and if so on what site?

3.1.4.3 Councillor Lawton said that The Council has considered registering the Recreation Field as A Green, to prevent development on it. Should this feature in the Neighbourhood Plan?

3.1.5 Solar Power

3.1.5.1 Question raised as to whether there be an insistence that on all new housing that solar collectors be included. To be considered.

3.1.6 Business / Commercial Development.

3.1.6.1 The point to be investigated is whether The Village needs more Business / Additional Shopping Facilities developed in the area. The Community Shop is reliant on volunteers to operate and the old Corner Shop and Butchers were not well supported, so the question is whether any new additional facilities would be supported and sustainable.

3.1.7 Leisure

3.1.7.1 What requirement is there for Walking and other outdoor activities – network of footpaths around The Village / Yarningale Common etc.?

3.1.8 Other Suggestions to be put forward.

3.2 Outline proposals for a Questionnaire have been circulated - all members are requested to consider and add comments. Mathew Neale has commented against each item, for the Neighbourhood Plan Group to consider.

4 Independent Scrutiny of Questionnaire

- 4.1 *Suggested – Simon Purfield - SDC Consultation and Customer Insight Manager.
This issue was not discussed in depth – decision to carry over for future consideration.*
- 5 *Quotations.*
- 5.1 *Publicity - Web Site and Internet etc.*
- 5.1.1 *Quotations have been obtained for setting up a website, the cheapest of which was £2,000 for the initial design work. There was some discussion as to the cost benefit of this and the time involved in keeping it up to date and what content would be of interest. The thought is that on completion of the Neighbourhood Plan project it could be used as a base for a dedicated Parish Council Website. Further cost breakdown is to be produced for the next meeting.*
- 5.1.2 *There was a discussion as to whether using Facebook and / or Twitter would be a useful medium for ongoing publication with divided views as to their relative merits.*
- 6 *Other Business.*
- 6.1 *It was agreed that Neale Pierce should be invited to attend all meetings to advise on the content of the Neighbourhood Plan as it progresses.*
- 6.2 *Councillor Lawton said that he would be giving an update on the Neighbourhood Plan at the Annual Parish Meeting, on April 22nd and it was suggested that a copies of the ‘fliers’ that Group Members have been distributing in The Village should be made available for people attending the Parish Meeting. This was agreed.*
- 7 *Date of next meeting*
- 7.1 *It was agreed that the next meeting will be held in circa one month – date later confirmed to be 18th May.*