

Botley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

**Minutes of meeting held on Thursday, 26th. January, 2017
7.30 p.m. at the Botley Centre Committee Room**

Present: Cllr. Colin Mercer (Chairing the meeting), Cllr. Lesley Bowler, Gerald Bradley, Hugh Dixon, Cllr. Sue Grinham, Dave Grinham, Cllr. Graham Hunter, Bob Nimmo, Rosemary Nimmo.

Apologies: Cllr. Jeff Jones, Derek Oswald, Cllr. Steve Radmore, Jean Sutton.

1. Appointment of Minutes Secretary

Rosemary Nimmo is willing to take the post of Minutes Secretary for a trial period of three months. The appointment was agreed unanimously.

2. Group Chairman

Since the resignation of Ian Bennett the steering group has had no designated Chairman. Cllr. Mercer (CM) suggested that the position should be taken by the working group leaders in rotation. Cllr. Bowler expressed strong objection to this, citing lack of continuity. After discussion it was agreed that the matter should be left pending until the next meeting. Meanwhile strenuous efforts will be made to find a suitable candidate and CM will circulate the group to provoke discussion on criteria for selection.

3. Engagement of Tony Charles

The Parish Council has agreed to the appointment of Tony Charles (W.A. Charles, Dip TP, MRTPI, MCMI) as consultant to assist us in writing the Housing Chapter of the Plan. A fee has been agreed to cover at least two drafts. He has been sent the working group report on EBC's Strategic Land Availability Assessment, and version 2 of our Plan, which is the last one to have been minuted.

There was extended discussion on the admissibility of Plan version 4, which was presented at the Public Exhibition. This contained changes from v.2 which had not been minuted and so had not been officially adopted. The Chairman therefore ruled that it was not a valid document for the evidence base. The Secretary was asked to re-circulate v.2 to the group.

Tony Charles (TC) has asked for the list of Botley planning permissions in the previous 5 years, which has been prepared by the working group. He would also like a further meeting with the SLAA (Housing) group. CM will arrange this.

Cllr. Grinham (SG) requested that communications between BPC and TC should be circulated to the steering group members. The Chairman confirmed that this would happen.

It was agreed that a quorum for the group meetings should be established. Dave Grinham (DG) proposed 7 members and this was passed unanimously.

4. Letter from Tony Charles to Eastleigh Borough Council Planning

As our representative, TC has drafted a letter to EBC asking them to engage with our group in further preparation of our NP and to meet with us at an early date to facilitate this. (Copy on file) The meeting considered this and was happy for it to be sent, subject to removal of the paragraph suggesting a joint approach with Bishopstoke – it was felt that this might be counterproductive

The Secretary was asked to e-mail TC with this decision. (Janet Morgan has the name of the temporary head of Planning Policy, Toby Ayling having left recently).

5. Engagement with the Borough Council

It was decided to await the response to TC's letter before making any further plans.

6. SLAA working group recommendations

The working group (w-g) presented their conclusions for approval. (It is noted that the EBC SLAA has not been upgraded to 2016 and the group have been unable to get this information – we hope that TC will be able to source this).

Regardless of the EBC recommendations the w-g rejected all the sites except three:-

- 3-19-C Garage at Broadoak, which was deemed an acceptable site for development in the village.
- 3-8-C and 3-9-C Land East and West of Uplands Farm, where a development of 300 houses, a cemetery and allotment land had been proposed in the 2011 – 2029 Local Plan. (BO2).

A majority of the w-g had agreed to this but the steering group was concerned that there is no appetite for further development in the village, in view of the major sites around Botley either under construction or in the planning stages. However, BO2 would bring substantial benefits to the community including facilitation of the by-pass, new cemetery

(much needed), more allotments and support for Botley Primary School with a greater intake of younger children.

It was noted that the by-pass is to be 55% funded, with the remaining 45% from developers' contributions. As the 106 for Boorley Park did not include any contribution for this there was likely to be a shortfall.

As chairman of BPC, CM had received a letter from Keith House which made it clear that EBC had not, in fact, withdrawn the 2011-2029 LP, in order to retain the policies it contained. Therefore it was likely that proposed strategic sites such as BO2 would be a part of the 2011 – 2036 emerging plan; in which case the NP would have to be in conformity. This information had not been available to TC when he gave us the briefing in December.

As the meeting was divided on the issue it was decided to reserve judgment on the Uplands Farm sites until we have seen the first draft of the Housing Paper. TC to be told of this decision.

7. Botley Planning Permissions in the previous five years

The w-g document had been circulated and it was agreed that it should be passed to TC.

8. Botley/Bishop's Waltham bridleway

A request from the Bridleway working group (Richard Kenchington) has been received. They wish to ensure that the route is included in our NP Footpath policy, and also ask for news on the progress of the NP.

SG is on the Bridleway w-g and will assure them that the route is already in the NP, which is currently at the evidence gathering stage. (As soon as the draft Housing section is agreed we will be able to say that we have an Emerging Neighbourhood Plan).

9/10. Request from Stonewater Housing Association

Marie Riordan, Regional Development Manager, has asked to meet the NP group to discuss social housing. The Secretary will ask Janet to send a 'holding' response, saying that we are awaiting our consultant's report.

11. Search for more volunteers

Everyone felt that more group members were needed as we are now rather thin on the ground. It is also important to get a good representation of a cross-section of the

community. It was decided that requests for volunteers, with various skills and interests, should be placed in the Parish News and other outlets.

Gerald Bradley's offer to draft a media communications plan was gladly accepted.

12. Updates from sub-groups

No updates were available at present. In answer to a question from DG, the Chairman confirmed that working sub-group reports were brought back to the main steering committee to be approved. He also reminded everyone that copies of all paperwork are to be deposited with Janet Morgan for safe keeping.

13. Next Public Consultation

Time would be needed to prepare for this so, after discussion, it was decided to carry out the next consultation approximately six weeks after receipt of TC's first draft, expected sometime in February. Publicity will need to be widespread, with a leaflet drop and articles in the Parish News and elsewhere.

14. Any other business

There was no other business.

15. Date of next meeting

Provisionally Wednesday, 1st. March at the Botley Centre.

Rosemary Nimmo
Secretary

30.01.17