

**MINUTES** of a meeting held at 7.30 pm on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**Venue:** The Barn, Shakespeare Lane, Harvington

**Present:**

Chris Haynes	Chairman
Gill Smith	Local Facilities and Leisure Group
Jenny Gray	Local Facilities and Leisure Group
John Colebrook	Parish Council and Business Group
Jenny Cocks	Housing Group
Kathy Haynes	Admin and PR
Clive Allen	
Maureen Hall	Secretary, Parish Council and Environment Group

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Chris Rushworth

1. **The Minutes of the last meeting** were approved and signed by the Chairman

2. **Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising,

3. **Chairman's Report**

- It was noted that comments from the Parish Council Chairman (Mark Steventon) and our District Councillor (Charlie Homer) at the Annual Parish Meeting indicated that the Harvington Neighbourhood Plan is being used as a paradigm for other Parishes within the District. This is a compliment to the Steering Group and all the Volunteers.
- Progress against the Project Plan is on track. However, the Housing Needs Survey is not included within the Plan, and will therefore need to be added, with appropriate justification, for the final document.
- The draft Plan is due to go out for Consultation with the Parish in October of this year. As many Housing options as we can have available will be included at that stage so that Parish residents can comment, and will probably form the major part of this consultation. All other matters will be dealt with at the open day event on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

4. **Reports from the Working Groups**

**a) Housing:** CH had looked at both the information provided by Gladman, and data he had extracted directly from Census results. This indicated that there was a higher proportion of elderly residents in the parish than young, economically active people. This being the case, it is suggested that the Housing Needs Survey should focus on that older demographic in order to ascertain their requirements for future housing.

There was some discussion as to why there are not more young people owning property in the village. It was concluded that this is largely due to house prices - the cost of even a two-bedroom starter home being prohibitive. Ease of movement from rented property could also be a factor, allowing faster relocation in the event of a change of job, for example.

The Housing Survey needs to ascertain if there are young people who would wish to move back into the village if they could, but it was felt that the main issue for Harvington was to provide for the needs of

the elderly, and that developers need to be aware of this in order to give the Parish the housing it needs.

A draft specification has been sent to eleven Consultants. However, the Parish Clerk has passed on the name of a gentleman who lives in the Village (Neil Pierce), who is a professional working within this field. CH has spoken with him, and he has suggested that we contact The Warwickshire Rural Community Council, a charity which has carried out similar surveys for Parishes within Warwickshire. Their charges for undertaking this work would be considerably cheaper than a Consultant.

It is suggested that the Survey be carried out, the results collated by the independent Consultant to ensure anonymity, and the final analysis to be undertaken jointly with representatives from the Steering Group (this to keep the Village involved, but the final results would be verified by the Consultant). The final document would then provide evidence for the finished Neighbourhood Plan.

It was decided to offer a small prize as an incentive to encourage people to participate in the survey, the winner to be decided by a 'Draw'.

The Steering Group delegated the responsibility for appointing a Consultant to undertake the Housing Survey to Chris Haynes, to enable action to be taken before the next meeting. CH undertook to ensure that people living in Social Housing properties within the Parish were particularly encouraged to respond to the Survey, in order to ensure a balanced result.

The Survey would be delivered by volunteers to all households within the Parish one weekend, and collected the following weekend.

It was noted that there is a need for a map showing the current settlement area and any proposed changes. Chris Haynes has a map which will serve this purpose, and undertook to deliver it to Jenny Cocks the day following the meeting. (15<sup>th</sup> April).

Jenny Cocks asked if there were any way we could find out when previous developments within the Parish had completed. It was felt that the District Council should have this information, and It was suggested that Jenny speak to Andy Ford for advice on whom she should contact.

It was also decided that, before the Survey was completed, we should contact Rooftop Housing to ascertain what provision they have already made (if any) for sheltered / adapted housing for the elderly within the Parish.

The Steering Group reiterated their strong opinion that any future development within the Parish should reflect the needs of the Community.

**b) Local Facilities:** Jenny Gray reported that the Proposed Policy document had been completed. This would be sent to the whole Steering Group to be discussed at the next meeting.

It had become apparent from the results of the survey carried out by the L.F.Group that a new community space in the Leys Road area was not wanted. However, it was recognised that the Village Hall will eventually be too small to accommodate the needs of the Village and a new one will be needed. It appears that there is a lot of support for a play area to be established in the Orchard. With regard to facilities for teenagers, however, despite having distributed a leaflet to all the local Senior School children, they had only received three replies.

The Prize Draw which had been offered as an incentive for completing the L.F. Group Survey had now taken place, and the winners had been notified. Jenny undertook to send a report on this to the Village News

The School Governors have confirmed that they have no plans to extend the school at present, but they would like us to identify within the Neighbourhood Plan land which could be set aside for that purpose. It was also noted that, should Government Plans to convert all schools to Academies proceed, we would need to ensure that the land on which the school operates, including all playing areas, car parks etc., should be protected and designated as being for school use only. It was felt strongly that there should be a policy regarding this in the Neighbourhood Plan, and Jenny Grey undertook to produce one and include it in the Group's Policy Document.

There was some discussion as to whether the allotments also be protected in this way, but Clive Allen pointed out that the District Council already undertook to offer replacement land if any allotment strips were required for other purposes.

**c) Transport:** No report as no representative present.

**d) Environment:** Maureen Hall reported that she had little success in trying to contact Tony Jones at Wychavon with regard to obtaining information on rainwater flow and flooding. The Environment Group had investigated what information was available on line, but felt that this is too specialist an area to be dealt with by them. It was therefore agreed that the Environment Group would investigate the cost of employing a Consultant to do this, but in the meantime Clive Allen would continue to try to contact Tony Jones to see what information was available.

**e) Business:** The Business Group have now completed their vision and policies, and submitted the document to the Steering Group for consideration. It was noted that employment in the village is very low and likely to remain so, and that most of the jobs are highly specialised. It is probable, therefore, that candidates would be sought from outside the village. It had been suggested that the field behind Ragley Road could be used for a new shopping centre, but it was felt that this would be undesirable, and would change the nature of the village.

**5. Budgets and Finances:** Expenditure so far has been low – less than £500.

**6. Village Consultation Event** Deferred to the next meeting.

#### **7. June Village Fete**

Main content to be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **8. Any Other Business**

- Chris H. will be producing a printed survey summary for those who are unable to access the information on line.
- He will also approach Neil Pierce with a view to appointing him to collate all the information into one document which will form the Draft Plan.

#### **12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> May, to be held at 7 Ragley Road.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.