

MINUTES of a meeting held at 7.30 pm on 5th May 2016

Venue: 7 Ragley Road, Harvington

Present:

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| Chris Haynes | Chairman |
| Gill Smith | 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**

- The Gladman Application had been rejected by Wychavon District Council. This rejection was largely based on the provisions of the South Worcestershire Development Plan, and comments received from Village residents.
- It was suggested that the Steering Group should keep in mind the Crest Hill hearing in July and be prepared to comment if required.
- CH had been contacted by an organisation offering a free workshop on local heritage. This is a Partnership project funded by Historic England for up to 25 people. Possible venues would be the John Redman Room or the Coach and Horses. KH to negotiate a day, possibly in late June or early July, and preferably a Saturday. She will Email the volunteers list, to see who is interested.

4. **Reports from the Working Groups**

a) Housing:

i) Survey: Jenny Cocks reported that she had contacted Wychavon DC who had been really helpful with regard to developments over the last 15 years. Andy Ford has offered to map the information for us so that we can begin to see an overall picture of size; year of development; type of houses built; whether in private ownership or rented, and what proportion is social housing; whether gardens were included etc. There has been a lot of building in the village over the last fifteen years, and it was felt that infill building should be included in the survey, as well as the larger developments.

ii) June Event: The Housing Group will provide a large map of the village, and will have Monopoly houses for people to place on those areas where they would like to see new development. This would give a visual impression of how the village will look in 15 years time. Jenny will also take photographs of the types of housing developments, to give a clearer picture of how things will look.

iii) Housing Needs Survey: CH has produced a six page specification outlining what we want from the Professional we employ. He had received one quote from The Planning Company, Worcester, of £5700. However, Neil Pierce, a retired Wychavon Planner who lives in the village, had suggested that we

contact Warwickshire Community Council, a charity who have done over 100 housing surveys, mostly for Neighbourhood Plans. CH duly did so, and they have come back with a quote based on a 30% response rate of £950. This includes the cost of printing, but we will have to arrange distribution ourselves. They sent sample questionnaires, and suggested a four week turn round would be viable.

CH had produced a sample questionnaire for the Steering Group to look at, and would also produce a separate covering letter, which would include details for entering the prize draw. There was some discussion as to whether or not to include another category for 81+, and this was agreed.

It was decided that we should approach Warwickshire Community Council to carry out this survey, which CH would arrange. He will also e-mail the group of volunteers to ask for people to deliver the survey to all households in the Parish.

CH has also emailed Rooftop, but to date had not heard back. He will chase. We should ensure that we are able to refer people who fill in the survey saying they need social housing to the right people. This will be included in the covering letter.

b) Local Facilities: All proposals and policies have now been submitted. Regarding the children's play area on the Leys Road side of the village, it was pointed out that this would not necessarily have to be in The Orchard – other venues had also been suggested, such as behind Groves Close, or by the field access opposite the entrance to Orchard Place. Both have cost implications and rely on current land owners being willing to sell. It was pointed out that Orchard Close would not be viable, because it is the entrance to a possible building site.

School: CH commented that the Government's proposals to make all schools become academies raised implications for the security of school land and facilities. The owning organisation would hold the Title Deeds to the land. If they decided to close the village school down, there would be nothing to stop them selling the land for development. We therefore need to make sure that it is made clear in the Neighbourhood Plan that all school land is reserved for school purposes only. A village referendum would be required in order to change that in the future. There was some discussion as to whether this would be necessary in the case of Harvington School, as it was a Church of England school run by the Diocese. However, it was felt that a 'belt and braces' approach would be best, to ensure that this land was secured and protected by the Neighbourhood Plan.

c) Transport: It was noted that Les Hancock is working virtually alone on this. CH will contact him to see if there is anything the Steering Group can do to help.

d) Environment: Maureen Hall reported that the Policy Document was almost ready, and she hoped to be able to send this to the Steering Group within the next two weeks. Clive Allen reported that he had managed to contact Tony Jones regarding hydrology, and it had been decided that developers should be asked to carry out impact assessments at the Outline Planning stage. This therefore removed the necessity for the village to carry out its own survey. Regarding the presentation at the Village Hall, the Environment Group will be doing a manually operated PowerPoint presentation, based on the Policy Statements. A fairly large monitor would be required for this, to be connected to Clive Allen's laptop. There will also be a separate, A4 laminated sheet listing the policies for people to look at, and another pad on which they can write down their comments.

e) Business: The policy document had been done and circulated to the Steering Group. All policies had been cross referenced to the SWDP. As far as the June presentation is concerned, they had planned to put up a Poster saying 'This is what we asked you; this is what you said; this is what we

plan'. The objective is to protect what business is already in the village and to resist going down the route of large industrial development.

5. Budgets and Finances: MH was asked to double check with the Parish Clerk that the Parish Council will cover the £1500.00 for the Housing Survey. She reported that she believed there was £5000 in the budget for the Neighbourhood Plan.

6. Village Fête: CH reported that he had the gazebo, and Kathy had sorted out the Posters. We will be in the middle of the Housing Survey, so we can have posters reminding people to fill it out. There will be a meeting in the week before the 11th to finalise details.

7. Village Hall Presentation on 18th: All groups were on track for this. CH will contact Les about the Transport Group presentation.

8. Any Other Business

- From February 2017 there will be a levy of about £40 per sq. m. on all new housing. The Parish Council will get 15% unless there is a Neighbourhood Plan in place, in which case they will get 25%.
- Andy Ford has pointed out that we need to ensure that our 'wish list' for the village includes all possible projects, and that these are listed in the Neighbourhood Plan, as it may be that such funding is only available for those projects so listed.
- John Colebrook reported that he had signed a petition requesting that Parish Councils should be able to appeal against Planning Decisions they do not like. The response was that Government did not see this as a way forward: however, if there is a Neighbourhood Plan in place, and the District Council decided to do something not in keeping with that, we should be able to appeal.
- It was also noted that, under 'Permitted Development' laws, it is possible for Utilities Companies to build solar farms etc. despite local objection.
- Regarding local renewable energy plans, MH will send out a link to the Barcombe Village web pages to show how this Sussex village approached the issue. It was agreed that we need to start looking at renewable energy projects for the village.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was arranged for Wednesday, 1st June, to be held at Bank House.