

DRAFT

MINUTES OF 6th MEETING OF THE BENTWORTH PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (BPNP) STEERING COMMITTEE, HELD AT 19.30 ON 27 APRIL 2016 AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Present

Colin Brooks (CB), Boyd McCleary (BMcC), Dave Hutley (DHu), Alasdair Pepper (AP), Veronica Parker (VP), Nicholas Branch (NB)

Apologies

Debbie Rhodes (DR), David Hawes (DHa), Peter Egerton-Warburton (PEW)

No	Points Noted/Agreed	Action With	Timeline
1.	Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee on 06.04.16 approved. To be circulated to all members and observers, and put into Dropbox.	BMcC DHu	1/5/16 10/5/16
2.	Communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none">We noted that BMcC had sent all minutes of the Steering Committee and the Interim Steering Group to the Clerk to the Parish Council, copied to DHa. These had not yet been published on the Neighbourhood Plan section of the Parish Council website, probably because of problems with the website, which had been down.We agreed that the draft update on the work of the Steering Committee, prepared by BMcC, should be sent to "The Villager" for inclusion in the next issue. BMcC mentioned that DHa was content with the draft.	BMcC	30/4//16
3.	Charter: We noted that DHa had not yet advised whether he and the Clerk to the Parish Council had signed the Charter, as approved by the Parish Council at its meeting on 1 March. A copy then needs to be put on the Neighbourhood Plan section of the Parish Council website.	DHa	10/5/16
4.	Application for Funding for Consultants: NB reported that our bid for grant had been successful. We had been allocated an initial tranche of £2,800, subject to certain conditions. It was agreed that BMcC should write to the Clerk to the Parish Council on behalf of the Committee, to thank her for her support.	BMcC	10/5/16
5.	Appointing Consultants: We agreed that we should now move quickly to issue a tender for consultants. We should re-circulate the draft brief for consultants, prepared by DR, and invite early comments.	BMcC	30/4/16
6.	Status of Steering Committee and Insurance: AP reported that the insurers who provided cover for the Parish Council had advised that there were two options for cover to be provided for the Steering Committee: (a) as part of the Parish Council, provided we were seen as members/officers of the Parish Council		

	<p>and that all decisions of the Committee were essentially taken by the Parish Council (b) as a separate self-standing policy, specifically for the Steering Committee</p> <p>We agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option (b) was more appropriate, as it would reflect the independence of the Steering Committee from the Parish Council • AP should ask the insurers for a quote for a self-standing policy • We should ask the Parish Council to pay for the policy premium out of the allocation of up to £3,000 which they had agreed for work on the Neighbourhood Plan 	AP	30/4/16
7.	<p>Neighbourhood Plan: NB reported on a 24/5/16 meeting with Simon Jenkins and Jennifer Howard of EHDC. Main points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) we should aim to hold our referendum ASAP, possibly by mid 2017. 2) it was good to learn from others' mistakes and successes; EHDC would put us in touch with suitable role models 3) EHDC now had a Stage 2 Local Plan in place, with over 6 years' housing supply in the pipeline. So the Stage 2 housing allocations, which included Bentworth's 12, should be the limit available for developers for the next 2-3 years, the only possible doubt being whether EHDC's requirement for development in small villages was being met. 4) The Local Plan (all Stages) was likely to be updated in 2019/20. But Bentworth would be better protected with a Neighbourhood Plan than without one. 5) A Stage 3 Local Plan was currently being progressed; this would include focus on providing more affordable housing (EHDC was behind target on this provision), so more attention would be given to rural exception sites (CP14). 6) The allocation of 12 dwellings to Bentworth must (under current rules) include at least 5 affordable homes, which could be split up over more than one site provided that at least 5 in total were provided. EHDC would prefer almost all of these to be social rented units. Rules on " starter homes " were currently being contested. 7) Two sites in Bentworth had SHLAA applications in progress. 8) One absolute requirement for our Neighbourhood 		

	<p>Plan would be a methodology for fairly evaluating the pros and cons of individual SHLAA sites. EHDC suggested that we use their standard “ Traffic Light“ (Red, Amber, Green) criteria checklist and undertook to send us this.</p> <p>9) EHDC noted that there was scope for tidying up and completing Bentworth’s Settlement Policy Boundaries (SPBs). Any new developments outside the SPBs would be tested against policies CP13 , CP14 and our existing allocation of 12. Equally, unless the new SPB boundaries were very tightly drawn, any gaps within them would be open to development, which would not be controllable by EHDC, unless restricted in our Neighbourhood Plan, eg “ no backland building “.</p> <p>We agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should hold off looking at the Bentley Neighbourhood Plan until we had seen the other role models suggested by EHDC • We should also hold off taking forward work on the questions until we had seen EHDC’s Traffic Light system. 		
<p>8.</p>	<p>Next two meetings of the Steering Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30pm on 11/5/16 at AP’s house • 7:30 on 1/6/16 at the White House 	<p>All</p>	

BMcC

1/5/16