Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee

of Saddleworth Parish Council Held at the Civic Hall, Lee Street, Uppermill on

**Thursday 9th March 2017**

There were present: Cllrs: Barbara Beeley – (Chair)

Rob Knotts

Keith Lucas

Andrew Fletcher Georgina Brownridge (OMBC)

Lisa MacDonald (DP) Jane Soriente (DP)

12. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Adele Metcalfe (NPA) and Geoff Willerton.

13. The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January and 9th February were **APPROVED and SIGNED**.

14. **Neighbourhood Plan Launch Event Tuesday 21st February**

Cllr Beeley emphasised the importance of working as a team and stressed that any comments made to the press, if they haven’t been agreed by this group, must carry the phrase “this is my own personal view”.

She reminded the group that if emails are circulated to a group of people they should be “blind copied” to ensure data protection.

Jane has started questions and contacts databases which she will add to as the project progresses.

Cllr Knotts expressed disappointment at the low attendance. He felt that people want to engage but currently find it difficult as the project is not clearly defined. There are mixed comments on social media. It was generally felt that attendance would start to improve once the plan becomes more tangible. It was stressed that the people of Saddleworth need to understand that this is **their** plan and that they have something valid to offer to it.

Andrew commented that there had been little mention of housing and land allocation at the event and the importance of this needs to be stressed as a major issue.

The group felt that Valerie Leach could be useful to the project in some capacity.

The feedback received from the Civic Trust was noted.

15. **Project Timeline**

Cllr Knotts will re-circulate Version 2.

There was a discussion about the Housing White Paper which retains the presumption against the release of Green Belt land. There is a focus on older peoples’ needs and starter homes. The details need to be considered in the Neighbourhood Plan strategy.

16. **Scheduling of Ward Visits**

It was agreed that the visits take place over 4 months from the end of Easter until the end of July. The sessions need to be run by the ward councillors but led by the members of the Strategic Planning Committee. This would be brought up at the Parish Council and Community Associations’ Forum on 6th April.

17. **Website page**

The Clerk is currently working with Cornerstones on this.

18. **Communications Strategy**

Facebook and Twitter accounts need to be set up but will need to be regularly monitored. It was recognised that the group does not have this capacity. Cllr Lucas said that he had a contact who does this kind of work and he will get in touch to find out what costs are involved.

19. **Evidence Gathering Framework**

All evidence needs to be collated under the 12 sections of the Plan – the general overview and the 11 themes. There may also be questions which do not fit within the sections and these will need to be separately evidenced.

20. **Any Other Business**

Lisa will channel any questions on statistics through Martin Burroughs at Oldham Council. As data is held by ward, there may be difficulties in splitting data regarding Saddleworth West and Lees.

It was stressed that, if evidence gaps start to appear, they need to be immediately addressed and steps taken to gather any missing information.

21. **Date of next meeting**

Thursday 6th April at 9:30am at the Civic Hall.