Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee

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

Thursday 22nd March 2018

There were present: Cllrs: Barbara Beeley (Chair)

Rob Knotts (Vice Chair)

Geoff Bayley

Pam Byrne

John McCann (OMBC)

Joanne Betts (OMBC) (Transport discussion only)

Georgina Brownridge (OMBC)

Lisa Macdonald (DP)

Jane Soriente (DP)

Andrew Fletcher

Geoff Willerton

**120.** **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Paul Fryer and Adele Metcalfe (PP).

**121. Transport Issues and the Neighbourhood Plan**

Joanne Betts, Principal Officer Transport and Highways Policy, Oldham Council, gave a detailed presentation on local, Borough-wide and Greater Manchester-wide transport issues. She said that the Neighbourhood Plan needs to be consistent with the 2040 Greater Manchester Transport Strategy (GMSF), the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and Oldham’s Local Plan. The 2040 Transport Strategy vision is for 'World class connections that support long-term, sustainable economic growth and access to opportunity for all’ and includes an ambitious plan to establish a fully integrated, high capacity transport system across Greater Manchester.

In addition to the 2040 Transport Strategy a 15 step plan entitled “Made to Move” was issued in December 2017 by the Mayor of Manchester, Andy Burnham, who has committed to easing congestion and making Manchester a “greener” place to live. A “green summit” was held on 21st March and the Mayor’s office is expected to make an announcement tomorrow.

The GMSF must include a robust transport base and TfGM are undertaking the concept planning and modelling for the strategic development sites, which cross borough boundaries, for example the Northern Gateway which includes parts of Oldham, Rochdale and Bury, identified throughout Greater Manchester in the GMSF.

There are 5 strategic sites wholly in Oldham, one of which is Fletcher’s, for which the transport impact is being dealt with by Oldham Council but which must align with the overall GM strategy.

The meeting raised several questions around transport policy, following which Cllr. Beeley thanked Joanne Betts for her comprehensive and informative presentation.

**122. Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2018 were **APPROVED** **and SIGNED**.

**123.** **Actions agreed last meeting not included separately on the agenda**

Cllr Knotts’ list of objectives re Tanner’s / Fletchers sites is in progress.

Cllr Beeley said that she has spoken to Sue Palfrey (OMBC) about involving the Youth Council in the Plan and is to have a further conversation with her.

Cllr Bayley has begun his investigations into the empty properties at the top end of Delph adjacent to the bridge and The White Lion.

**124.** **Website launch and training**

Cllr. Beeley has sent the contact details for the village representatives to David Wadsworth at Cornerstones. He will arrange a training date once the website has been updated which will probably be after Easter.

**125. Update from Fletcher’s/Tanner’s Meetings**

A meeting has been held with Pureco regarding the Fletcher’s site at which, at face value, they appeared to be on similar ground to the Council. A meeting with IBI, the master planners, is to be held very shortly. Georgina Brownridge said that she would speak to Steven Irvine to confirm the date. It is then expected that a round-up meeting will be held after the local government elections have taken place in early May. It was noted that planning permission for 4 small developments on the site have already been put forward, possibly to generate funding to finance other projects.

**126. Review of Project Timeline**

Cllr Beeley said that, in becoming involved with wider issues, the project plan had gone off course. She said that the opportunity should be taken to revisit the content of the plan and decide what is to be included in it and what should be included in a supplementary supporting document.

Cllr Knotts said that had looked at the Bradwell plan and he was going try to fit the Scouthead and Austerlands proposals into a similar format.

Georgina Brownridge said that there was probably enough information already available to write the vision and the plan objectives. Andrew Fletched said that he has read 3 plans, Bradwell, one in Kent and Thame in Oxfordshire, and these 2 sections do not appear to be difficult to write. He said that the difficulties lay in focussing on what is important in terms of policy issues. Cllr Beeley said that she had read the plan for Shenstone and they had included the “other” issues as an appendix to their plan rather than as a supplementary document.

Lisa McDonald suggested that the first section of the Parish Plan, detailing the history and development of Saddleworth could be used as the background information section for the Neighbourhood Plan. She added that Jane Soriente already had 2 evidence files plus a third covering the Fletcher’s / Tanner’s discussions, mainly in hard copy. These will need re-ordering and referencing but provide good supporting evidence. Andrew Fletcher said that the plans he has read make frequent reference to information included on their websites so it is critical that this is operational as soon as possible.

The following actions were **AGREED:**

* **Cllr Bayley to continue to investigate the empty properties in Delph;**
* **Andrew Fletcher to look at drafting the Vision for the plan (it was noted that the Civic Trust prepared a vision for Saddleworth fairly recently and this may be of use);**
* **Cllr Beeley to:**

1. **draw up a skeleton outline for the plan which can be compared to the existing Oldham Local Plan;**
2. **and draft the background information from the details included in the Parish Plan; and**

* **Cllr Knotts to reformat the survey and separate out the issues for the Neighbourhood Plan and Other Issues.**

**127. Funding**

Cllr. Knotts said that he had not yet spoken to Deb Appleby or Head Office about the delay in the plan but it was possible that the unspent grant money would have to be repaid.

Cllr Beeley said that a request had been made to the Parish council for the release of some reserves but the decision had been deferred until after the accounts for the current financial year had been prepared.

**128. Any other business:**

Cllr Byrne said that Uppermill have not yet started work on their plan and added that when she had spoken to them she had been advised not to interfere. She said that she would chase them up again.

Cllr Knotts said that he will speak to InSaddleworth to get things moving on their website.

Andrew Fletcher asked if any of the communities were particularly active on the project. It was noted that Dobcross, Diggle, Scouthead and Austerlands, Lydgate and Greenfield are all making good progress.

**129. Date of next meeting**

To be held at 9:30am at Uppermill Civic Hall on Thursday 26th April 2018.

Future meetings will be provisionally scheduled for the last Thursday of each month. Additional meetings will be called as required.