Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee

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

Thursday 28th March 2019

Present: Parish Councillors: Barbara Beeley (Chair)

Rob Knotts (Vice Chair)

Sam Al-Hamdani

Paul Fryer

Andrew Fletcher

Georgina Brownridge

Geoff Willerton

**214. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Geoff Bayley (SPC), Val Leach (OMBC), Lisa MacDonald (DP) and Jane Soriente (DP).

**215. Minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2019 were **APPROVED and SIGNED**.

**216.** **Matters arising**

Cllr Beeley said that Joanne Blair had sent her maps of the Saddleworth Conservation Areas which she will circulate.

**217. Fletcher’s Update**

Cllr Beeley confirmed that the GMSF submission had been completed on 15th March and an acknowledgement of its receipt had been received. Andrew Fletcher said that he had been contacted by John Phipps who had asked for copies of both the Parish Council and Peak Park submissions and requested a meeting of the Fletcher’s group with himself and John Taylor as soon as possible. Pam Bailey said that she would ask Lisa MacDonald to arrange a date. John Phipps had said that the views of Pureco are not dissimilar to those of the parish but is not happy that the masterplan does not take account of the contamination of the site or access issues.

Cllr Al-Hamdani asked if a copy of the Peak Park submission could be circulated to the group. Cllr Beeley said that she would send it to Pam Bailey to be sent out with the minutes.

Cllr Knotts asked whether there were any statistics for the contamination levels. Cllr Beeley said that a report was done around 2010 but the results were not made public. Georgina Brownridge said that she would check. She also said that she had sent information to the GM Ecology Unit on all the species identified so far at the site and they would prepare the Habitat regulations and ecology assessment reports. A flood risk assessment is also being prepared.

**218. Project Timeline**

Cllr Knotts said that he has now completed the work and had sent the latest version to Cllr Beeley and Pam Bailey this morning for circulation. The timeline now includes the consultation process, the identification of land for development and the identification of empty properties. The project end date is 31st December 2020. He added that, due to the forthcoming elections, tasks have not yet been allocated to individuals as these may change. Cllr Fryer suggested that, as Cllr Bayley is not standing for re-election in May, he be co-opted back on to the committee.

**219. Appointment of Project Manager**

The Clerk said that no progress had been made. And it was **AGREED that Cllr Knotts and the Clerk write a report for inclusion in the next newsletter of the Chamber of Commerce.**

**220. Skeleton Plan and Update**

Cllr Beeley circulated the latest draft which highlighted new information which has been added and information that is still to be included. In respect of section:

5) Cllr Knotts said that he has all the village statistics information. This may need to be updated once Oldham’s Housing Strategy, which is due for consultation in September, has been completed;

6) the overview needs to be written. Cllr Knotts has statistics on retail and commerce for Saddleworth North. Georgina Brownridge said that she will look at the accessibility map. She said that it is important to remember that every single issue does not have to be covered;

8) Cllr Knotts asked whether details of future employment opportunities should be included;

10) Cllr Beeley has got the maps of the conservation areas. Cllr Knotts said that he would see what other information is available. Georgina Brownridge said that OMBC have recently published the Oldham Conservation Area Plan and it may be possible to use some of the same policies;

11) it was noted that a lot of the shops in Uppermill have empty floors above them which could be converted into flats and that there should be a policy for “lifetime homes”. Andrew Fletcher said that, due to the high demand for housing in Saddleworth, there is a relatively high incidence of “windfall sites” e.g. large gardens being used for the construction of houses;

12) Cllr Fryer said that 50% of people are in support of a tourist bus. Georgina Brownridge said that the Peak Park has asked for a Tourist Management Plan. Andrew Fletcher said that Martin Arthur has volunteered to write this section;

14) it was noted that details of access to green spaces is part of the Fletcher’s planning process but the question was raised as to whether a similar exercise needs to be completed for the whole of Saddleworth. Cllr Beeley asked whether a map exists;

15) Cllr Fryer said that he will revisit the flooding policy. Georgina said that she will look at sustainable drainage issues;

Cllr Beeley said that, now the Fletcher’s submission has been completed, everyone needs to concentrate on the Neighbourhood Plan. She asked that any information be sent to her for input.

Cllr Knotts said that both community isolation issues and community assets need to be addressed in the plan. He suggested that they be included in Section 5.

Andrew Fletcher said that the issues included in Section 18 would be those which would help to win the referendum and that these issues should be championed.

Georgina Brownridge said that Ken Gartside has submitted comments about the Fletcher’s proposals and suggested that he may be asked to do the same for the whole of Saddleworth. She added that she is attending a Biodiversity Seminar this afternoon and will report back to the next meeting.

Cllr Knotts said that OMBC do not currently notify the parish when assets are being disposed of and asked whether a consultation process could be drawn up. Georgina Brownridge said that she will send contact details for the officer in the Unity Partnership who deals with asset disposal.

**221. Survey Launch**

Cllr Al-Hamdani said that he has incorporated all the changes into the survey and has spoken to Cornerstones about getting it live on the website. He said that he is just waiting for access rights to the website. He also said that he would be prepared to undertake the training for the community association representatives. Cllr Beeley said that the NP website is not yet live. Cllr Al-Hamdani said that he will sort this out.

Cllr Knotts said that the villages need to be updated on progress with the survey. Cllr Beeley said that she will circulate some information once the website has gone live. She said that she would send the list of village contacts to Cllr Al-Hamdani.

**222. Funding**

Cllr Knotts said that a new funding bid cannot be made until the project manager has been appointed and the project budget has been agreed.

**223. Any other business:**

Georgina Brownridge said that Middlewich had recently had their NP turned down at referendum having spent 4 years on its preparation and stressed the need to get people on board at the early stages of the project to avoid this happening in Saddleworth. Cllr Al-Hamdani said that the positive aspects of the project need to be kept at the forefront and that the “hearts and minds” statement needs to be the opening paragraph on the project vision.

Cllr Knotts said that he would give an update on the project at the community associations’ meeting later today. He added that, as he is not standing for re-election in May, he would be prepared to be co-opted back on to this project.

Cllr Beeley said that she would write an update on the project for the Saddleworth Independent.

**224. Date and time of next meeting:**

25th April 2019 at 9:30am