Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee

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

Thursday 28th November 2019

Present: Parish Councillors: Barbara Beeley (Chair)

Pam Byrne

Graham Sheldon

Andrew Fletcher

Geoff Willerton

Liz Whitehead, Oldham Visitor Economy Lead

**272. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Sam Al-Hamdani, Alan Belmore and Kevin Dawson (SPC), Georgina Brownridge (OMBC), Lisa MacDonald (DP), Jane Soriente (DP) and Adele Metcalfe (PP).

**273. Minutes of the meeting held on 31st October 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st October 2019 were **APPROVED and SIGNED**.

**274.** **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**275. Oldham Tourist / Visitor Strategy – Liz Whitehead**

Aspiration to produce a tourist / visitor strategy. One was produced in 2017 but needs updating. Also have to be aware of GM strategies who are presently updating Tourism and Cultural strategy from 2009.

There are 2 key areas which attract tourists: Oldham Town Centre and Saddleworth.

It is recognised that it is big to the economy from data supplied by businesses and attractions and it is how to manage this. There are many day and overnight visitors but wish to get people to stay longer. There is a new town centre hotel proposed at Prince’s Gate and a cultural and heritage centre in the old library. The night time economy is important and interweaves into other areas. GM is bidding to be Town of Culture which will help regeneration of Oldham Town Centre and Saddleworth. The Visit Oldham website is to be refreshed and its links to Visit Manchester.

It is recognised that Saddleworth is a tourist hotspot and that places other than Dovestone need to be promoted to spread the load. There is plenty of accessible countryside with SSI’s, biodiversity, footpaths. Looking at a South Pennine Park for the People. There are footpath and guides to the area but they are outdated. Cllr Byrne volunteered to look at them with a view to updates.

The virtual tour of the Civic Hall and a link to the website for the walks will be added to the website. The canal tours seem to have stopped and Liz asked that is anyone knows of anybody interested in doing them, to please let her know.

Cllr Beeley thanked Ms Whitehead for the information and her time.

**276. Survey Update**

Cllr Beeley informed the meeting that the survey will be published in the Saddleworth Independent in January. It will also be available on-line and paper copies will be made available in local libraries.

**277. Website Update**

Cllr Al-Hamdani’s said that the Cornerstones are making the website amendments.

**278. Funding**

Cllr Beeley said that she and the Clerk will be working on the application form next week. The application will be submitted before Christmas.

**279. Any Other Business**

Cllr Beeley said that there had been no further news on GMSF which has now been delayed until June 2020. The reason given for the delay was that they want deeper community engagement. She said that she would liaise with Lisa MacDonald to try to get a sub-group meeting arranged.

**280. Dates and times of next meetings:**

19th December 2019 26th March 2020

30th January 2020 30th April 2020

27th February 2020 28th May 2020

all at 9:30am.