Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee

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

**Thursday 28th September 2017**

There were present: Cllrs: Barbara Beeley (Chair)

Rob Knotts (Vice Chair)

Keith Lucas

John McCann (DP)

Andrew Fletcher

Adele Metcalfe (PPA)

Georgina Brownridge (OMBC)

Jane Soriente (DP)

Stuart Coleman (InSaddleworth) (from 10:30am)

**69.** **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Geoff Bayley and Steve Hewitt, Lisa MacDonald (DP) and Cllr. Peter Klonowski (OMBC).

**70.** **Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd August 2017**

Minute 66(a) was amended as follows:

“Georgina Brownridge confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan timescale ~~will need to~~ **can** be extended as it dependent on both the GMSF and the Oldham Local Plan.”

The minutes were then **APPROVED and SIGNED**.

**71.** **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**72.** **Project Round Up**

It has become evident that there is a severe lack of resources for administration of the project and grant monies do not cover this work. It was suggested that funding could be sourced for “project management” which would cover a lot of the administration work. It was noted that when the original work on the Neighbourhood Plan began, consultants had been engaged, but if had been agreed that this approach would not be followed for the current project as consultants would lack the necessary local knowledge. However, in light of the current lack of progress on the project it was now felt that this should be reconsidered. Adele Metcalfe said that Bakewell had engaged a project manager from the start of their plan from Rural Action Derbyshire. She said that there had been some problems because their role had not been adequately defined and advised that a very detailed “job description” would need to be drawn up. Barbara Beeley said that the worry in using consultants is that they may come along with a standard template and try to fit Saddleworth into it.

**73. Surveys**

Rob Knotts reminded the meeting that this is a community project, not a Parish Council project. He said that an initial survey needs to go out as soon as possible and the results collated. Keith Lucas said that Dobcross Community Group have set up a survey on SurveyMonkey (***www.dobx.life)*** and they are concentrating on collecting information. He said that 3 key opinions seem to be:

* Oldham won’t listen anyway;
* the community doesn’t know what information the Parish Council want; and
* if certain things cannot be put into the Neighbourhood Plan, what is the point in doing it.

Rob Knotts said that the survey looks good and that a launch event with representation form all the community needs to be held to launch it. The results need to be analysed on a community basis, not an overall one.

**74. Business Community**

Andrew Fletcher said that a meeting has been organised with Tom Stannard at Oldham Council on 16th November to discuss the best approach to engage businesses. He said that there may be a number of different approaches required such as one to one meetings; written correspondence etc. Rob Knotts said that he had seen a directory of Saddleworth businesses some time ago and asked if that was still “live”. Andrew Fletcher said that there had also been a Saddleworth business consultation group but thinks that this no longer meets. Jane Soriente said that Christine Wilson has a business network but it is not extensive. Rob Knotts said that a Saddleworth business unit should be formally developed. Georgina Brownridge said that she will make enquiries at Oldham Council to see if any business directories exist. Andrew Fletcher circulated a paper he has prepared as a basis for the meeting and asked for feedback so that everyone’s thoughts can be included in the final version.

**75. Strategy Going Forward**

Uppermill Community Association still have not met to discuss their Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Pam Byrne has volunteered to arrange a meeting.

Obtaining funding for and recruiting a project manager needs to be looked at urgently. Adele Metcalfe said that a list of tasks needs to be drawn up before going out to tender to define the scope of work for the post. A person with local knowledge would be preferable. Barbara Beeley said that she will speak to Action Together.

It was **AGREED that a working group be established to start the process. The first meeting will be on Monday 2nd October at 9:30am.**

**76. Fletchers and Tanners**

Andrew Fletcher updated the group on progress to date. Further discussion will take place on 16th November. He said that a meeting with the Peak Park prior to this would be useful. Adele Metcalfe said that she will arrange one.

**77. Housing Needs Assessment**

Georgina Brownridge confirmed that the new guidelines have been issued. John McCann said that he has concerns about national rules being applied to rural areas. He added that the new figures may not be better news when they are issued.

**79. Website & Communications**

Barbara Beeley said that the website is ready to go live. Each village will upload their own information. Stuart Coleman said that he had uploaded all the information he has been given onto the InSaddleworth website but has now taken the timetable of meeting off until a new one has been agreed. He said that most of the Community Associations have their own Facebook pages and this s a good way of getting information out to a wider audience. He asked who he should liaise with regarding what is to be published and when. It was **AGREED that this will be decided at Monday’s meeting.**

**80. Project Resources**

Rob Knotts said that he will look at whether or not grant funding is available for PR work. The possibility of co-opting more parish councillors onto the Neighbourhood Plan group was discussed. The grant conditions state that funding is not available for administration work.

**81. GMSF / Call for sites**

Georgina Brownridge said that the next GMSF consultation will take place in June 2018. The Local Development Plan will be consulted on at the same time. The list of proposed sites should be issued before Christmas.

Adele Metcalfe said that the Peak Park Management Plan should have gone through the inspection process in the next 6 months.

**82.** **Dates of next meetings**

To be held at 9:30am at Uppermill Civic Hall on:

Thursday 26th October 2017 Thursday 25th January 2018

Thursday 30th November 2017 Thursday 22nd February 2018

Thursday 21st December 2017 Thursday 22nd March 2018

Thursday 26th April 2018

Additional meetings will be called as required.