Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee

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

**Thursday 30th November 2017**

There were present: Cllrs: Barbara Beeley (Chair)

Rob Knotts (Vice Chair)

Geoff Bayley

Pam Byrne

Paul Fryer

Geoff Willerton

Andrew Fletcher

Georgina Brownridge (OMBC)

Lisa MacDonald (DP)

Jane Soriente (DP)

Stephen Irvine (OMBC)

**90.** **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr. John McCann and Adele Metcalfe (PP).

**91. Saddleworth Development – discussion paper by Cllr. Knotts**

Cllr. Knotts introduced the paper which he had prepared. He explained that the paper, which had been driven by the questions raised by residents at the Community Association meetings at which the Neighbourhood Plan presentation had been made, is meant to be objective, not critical, and includes issues wider than those to be considered for the Neighbourhood Plan. The statistical information and other details were added after the questions had been raised – it did not drive the questions themselves. The paper is intended to be proactive – this is what residents feel, what can Saddleworth do about it.

Stephen Irvine gave a detailed response to the paper, mainly from a Neighbourhood Plan perspective. He said that any evidence has to be robust as any unevidenced comments would not be listened to by a Planning Inspector.

Cllr. Knotts stressed that the paper in not a Neighbourhood Plan document but a discussion paper on the wider future of Saddleworth.

Stephen Irvine commented that policies are drawn up after adding an evidence base to a vision.

Georgina Brownridge suggested that a workshop be held in March 2018 to plan the way forward.

**92. Fletchers / Tanners**

Stephen Irvine said that the master planners had been appointed and were on site today. The site is one of five sites they are looking at and there will be meetings with stakeholders throughout December. A constraints sheet will be compiled showing where building is/is not possible and each site will be assessed for

* suitability;
* achievability; and
* availability.

The concept plans will be discussed with stakeholders, including the Parish Council. He said that there will be time to fit in a public consultation and/or drop-in sessions. The consultation document should be available early in the new year so that any changes arising from the consultation will be made prior to the June response deadline for the GMSF.

As the site is the only strategic site in Saddleworth it is essential that the plan is agreed to prevent alternative sites having to be identified. He referred to the site as the “least worst” option.

Stephen Irvine left the meeting.

**94.** **Minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2017**

The minutes were **APPROVED and SIGNED**.

**95.** **Matters Arising**

Geoff Willerton said that he had not yet spoken to Steve Quartermain at DCLG regarding other sources of grant funding.

Cllr Knotts said that there is no additional funding available unless the Neighbourhood Plan area is re-designated.

Cllr Beeley reminded the meeting that there is still a need for administrative assistance. Georgina Brownridge said that there is no funding available from Oldham. She said that she would ask Ellie Ecclestone from Get Oldham Working to contact Cllr Beeley but there would be a charge for any support which would depend on the option selected.

Cllr Beeley said that Cornerstones will provide training on the website for the group. The first 2 hours are free and then £90 per hour. Pam Bailey said that the funds available from the Councillors Training budget is £465. Cllr Beeley said that she has contacted the community volunteers to obtain 2 or 3 possible dates.

Pam Bailey said that the group’s response to the DCLG on Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places had been approved by Council on 27th November and it has now been submitted.

**96.** **Update from meetings with Community Associations**

Cllr Beeley said that the meeting with Uppermill Community Association has now been held but attendance was poor with only 6 people coming to hear the presentation.

Georgina Brownridge asked if it would be possible to write a paper summarising all the issues raised at the various meetings for the evidence file. She referred to a document she had recently circulated – The Neighbourhood Plan Roadplan Guide – and suggested that an on-line and papers survey be drawn up to get over the issues of non-attendance. Cllr Beeley said that she will draft something for the January meeting.

Lisa McDonald reminded the group about the Business Breakfast Meeting at Clough Manor on 7th December and said that a slot had been reserved for the Neighbourhood Plan to be presented, although the time allocated is fairly short. Attendees will include Oldham Enterprise Trust, which supports local businesses, The Greater Manchester Growth Hub and representatives of the Pennine Prospect Fund. Cllr Beeley said that she will send presentation slides to the organiser in advance of the meeting.

Georgina Brownridge suggested that Joanne Betts be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss transport issues. She also said that the attendees of the breakfast meeting and details of how the meeting has been promoted be included in the evidence base.

**97. Neighbourhood Planning Grant – requirement for submission of End of Grant report**

Pam Bailey said that a request for the report has been received. She said that she will send the form and the summary of expenditure to date to Cllr. Knotts and agreed that they meet up next week to put the report together.

**98. Any Other Business**

Georgina Brownridge asked whether Community Associations have been informed about the delay in the project. Barbara Beeley said that an email had been sent and also said that it has been reported in the Saddleworth Independent.

**99.** **Dates of next meetings**

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

Thursday 25th January 2018 Thursday 22nd March 2018

Thursday 22nd February 2018 Thursday 26th April 2018

Additional meetings will be called as required.