Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee

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

Thursday 31st May 2018

There were present: Cllrs: Rob Knotts (Vice Chair)

Geoff Bayley

Pam Byrne

Paul Fryer

Georgina Brownridge (OMBC)

Andrew Fletcher

Geoff Willerton

**140.** **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr. B. Beeley (Chair), Adele Metcalfe (PP), Lisa McDonald (DP) and Jane Soriente (DP).

**141. Minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2018 were **APPROVED** **and SIGNED**.

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

Cllr. Byrne said that she had not yet contacted David Sanderson. She said that she will be arranging a meeting of Uppermill residents in the near future to kick start the Uppermill plan. She had obtained copies of the “Regeneration of Denshaw” plan which had been drawn up by 3 local farmers. This was discussed later in the meeting.

Cllr. Bayley distributed copies of his findings from his case study into empty and derelict properties in Delph.Cllr Bayley was commended for his thorough work. It was noted that similar case studies may be appropriate for other villages.

Andrew Fletcher said that the minor amendments suggested at the last meeting have now been incorporated into the draft Vision Statement and that this had now been put on hold to be revisited once other sections of the plan have been completed.

Cllr Knotts informed the meeting that the GMSF consultation has been delayed which means that the project timeline cannot yet be updated but he felt that the deadline is still achievable. He said that the hardest job will be the overall consolidation of the plan and it was important to get the plans for each individual village completed as soon as possible so that this work can begin. He suggested that a further round of meetings with each village be arranged.

There was no update on the skeleton plan as Cllr. Beeley is working this. It will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

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

Andrew Fletched summarised the meeting which had been held with IBI and Oldham Council. It was noted that the current draft retains more of the green field areas in the green belt compared to the 2016 consultation. Cllr Knotts said that tremendous progress in the negotiations for the site had been made over the past 18 months and he thanked Georgina Brownridge and other people from Oldham Council who had been involved for their support and hard work during the process.

Cllr. Knotts commented that the meeting already held with Tanners had been good but had reservations following the meeting with Purico. Cllr Beeley said that it is important to keep an open mind until the meeting with IBI has taken place.

**144. Survey**

Cllr Knotts circulated the latest draft, which was based on the excellent work done by Dobcross Community Association, for discussion. He said that he will meet with Cllr Beeley as soon as possible to obtain the missing information (website details and contact addresses etc.) and asked for any comments on the survey to be sent to him early next week so that the survey can be finalised. Cllr Byrne asked how the results will be collated and presented. Cllr Knotts said that he was going to look at SurveyMonkey. He said that a spreadsheet can be used for collating the results and commented that the exercise undertaken for the Parish Plan had taken a great deal of time.

**145. Funding**

Cllr Knotts reminded the meeting that the Parish Council had agreed for the release of up to £7,500 from reserves to fund administrative support. He said that the unspent part of the grant has to be repaid, although it is possible to reapply for it in the new grant period. He referred to a detailed report which he had prepared to accompany the end-of-year grant report which sets out the complicated structure of the parish which makes the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan unique. He said that if each village prepared their own individual plan they would each be eligible for up to £15,000 which is the total amount offered for the overall Neighbourhood Plan. The report will be sent with a covering letter once Cllr Beeley has signed it off as Chairman of this group.

**146. Dobcross submission**

The Dobcross village submission for the Neighbourhood Plan was circulated. Cllr Knotts congratulated the residents on a very good job. The submission, which highlights issues which the village residents feel to be important, has a good policy focus which is supported by the feedback from the survey. He asked that all members of the group look at the submission before the next meeting to identify any gaps and anything which may need to be taken out as it conflicts with Oldham Council policies. He suggested that once any amendments had been made it could be circulated to the other village groups as a skeleton for their own plans.

Georgina Brownridge said that the GMSF evidence is due to be published in the next couple of months and she will forward it once it is available.

**147. Any Other Business**

Cllr Fryer circulated a draft paper “Making Saddleworth Climate Ready”. Andrew Fletcher mentioned the “Stop the Flow” initiative which aims to make areas prone to flooding ready for the impact of climate change. An article had appeared in The Oldham Times several weeks ago and landowners had been asked to come forward to help implement the scheme. Georgina Browridge said that she will forward contact details and will ask Antony Bhunu to attend a future meeting to discuss flooding.

Cllr Knotts asked whether the problems of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam should be included in the plan. It was **AGREED that this be included in future Neighbourhood Plan discussions.**

Georgina Brownridge said that she would speak to Oldham’s Housing Department to aks for a representative at a future meeting and to Jon Bloor to chase up information on broadband speeds.

It was noted that the plans circulated for the regeneration of Denshaw were part of the original GMSF call for sites.

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

28th June 2018 20th December 2018

**19th July 2018 (changed from 26th)** 31st January 2019

30th August 2018 28th February 2019

27th September 2018 28th March 2019

25th October 2018 25th April 2019

29th November 2018

at 9:30am