

WILLASTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16th JULY 2015

Present : Maurice Jones, Craig Bailey, Shirley Brazier, Ann Jones, Colin Todd, Keith Ward, Martin Langhorn & Andrew Thompson (Consultant).

Apologies : Anna Cutts & Wayne Lewis.

Appointment of Officers

The following appointments were agreed :-

Chairman : Maurice Jones

Vice Chairman : Colin Todd

Auditor : Martin Langhorn

It was agreed that the taking of minutes would be rotated amongst the committee.

Co-option of other members

It was reported that Tom Shufflebotham from Cheerbrook Farm had expressed an interest in becoming involved in the Neighbourhood Plan process. In view of his part ownership of land which is currently the subject of two significant planning applications under review, Andrew Thompson advised that it would not be appropriate for Mr Shufflebotham to be a member of the Committee as he clearly has a vested interest and would not be able to take part in the voting process. However, he should be given the opportunity to address the committee at a future meeting in order to put forward his views.

With regard to the co-option of any other residents to the committee, we should be looking for people with specific skills, and particularly IT skills.

The Constitution

The committee had looked at examples of constitutions drawn up by other Neighbourhood Plan groups and it was agreed that the Willaston constitution would be finalised at the next meeting.

Consultant involvement

Andrew Thompson will produce a timetable of the process going forward. He will charge a half day rate for the preparation and attendance at each meeting. It was agreed that the committee should initially work on the basis of requiring 20 days of Andrew`s time and Cheshire Community Action will be advised accordingly.

Application for funding

Martin Langhorn will make enquiries about the Locality Funding from central government and seek to obtain application forms.

Programme of publicity

Andrew Thompson will speak to Cheshire Community Action to investigate the options for a Neighbourhood Plan website.

The first task of the committee will be to produce the questionnaire for distribution around the village. This will then need to be followed up by a public meeting and various community events.

Objectives of the plan

It was agreed that the key objectives of the plan should be :-

Housing requirements

Infrastructure – including traffic issues

Maintenance of the Green Gap

Environmental issues

These are not set in stone and may develop as feedback is obtained from the community.

Work already undertaken

The key piece of work already undertaken is the Parish Plan and this can be used as part of the evidence base.

Gathering of evidence

In addition to the consultation with the community, some key areas of evidence gathering will be :-

Housing needs assessment

OCS – Andrew Thompson will ask Cheshire Community Action to contact Maurice Jones with data.

Environment – Cheshire Wildlife Trust will carry out a 3 day environmental assessment at a cost in the region of £1,000. Dr Rachel Giles is the contact at Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

AOB

It remains very unclear whether the Inspector will accept the changes to the Cheshire East Local Plan, which makes the creation of a Local Plan all the more important.

When calculating the housing requirement in the Neighbourhood Plan, completions since 1st April 2010 can be taken into account.

Martin Langhorn will look into the matter of a separate bank account for the Neighbourhood Plan, to run alongside the parish council accounts.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 32 Hollybush Crescent, Willaston on Tuesday 4th August commencing at 7.15pm.

The key issues to be covered at that meeting will be :-

Finalisation of the constitution

Production of the questionnaire