

**MINUTES BHCP STEERING GROUP MTG THURSDAY March 20 2014 at 10 am**

**AONB meeting room, Hemyock**

**Attending**

Catherine Bass	Co-ordinator & Communications Group leader
Geoffrey Sworder	Dunkeswell & Planning Group leader
Lisa Turner	AONB
Bruce Payne	Wellington w/o, AONB Management, Natural Futures
Ken Pearson	Churchstanton & Traffic, Transport & Highways Group leader

Apologies:	Heather Stallard	Chair
	Cathy Gardner	Stockland

Meeting chaired by Lisa Turner

- 1 Minutes of last mtg Nov 28<sup>th</sup> 2013 were agreed
- 2 Matters arising - none other than items in the agenda
- 3 Action Group Reports
  - a. Communications/ website
    - Final report to TDBC re Voluntary and Community Sector Grant/Youth Fund due on 31.3.2014, CB to submit. £1000 grant is almost spent, remaining £150 to be attributed to as yet unrepresented invoices from Cosmic relating to annual webhosting fee and an adjustment to webforms. CB
    - Advertising revenue: £70 to date, with two webpage hosting fees of £15 each. More adverts are now coming in, following improved webforms and easier payment via BACS HS
    - Outcome of Broadband mtg 7.2.14. Mtg attend by HS, report at next meeting
    - Suggestion that the site has an RSS feed option, or similar, added so that changes on the site can be notified automatically to interested parties. Cosmic to be consulted. CB
  - b. Transport
 

TTH group has not met recently, several issues of importance, state of roads following announcements of more cuts to County budgets. A303 consultations to start soon.

*\*subsequent to this meeting A303 Ahead team has circulated an email about a survey to determine specific issues for residents in the Blackdowns, closing on April 22. BHPN TTH has arranged a meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 3.15 in the Blackdown Healthy Living and Activity Centre, with possible attendance by A303 project team members.*
  - c. Planning
    - AONB Management Plan is almost complete, Delivery plan consultation is due next. Currently working on ensuring the District Councils strategic policy is suitably aligned with the Management Plan.
    - Suggested that an Engagement Plan might be helpful to describe the roles of the

# Parish Network Steering Group

various AONB partners.

- Local Planning issues
  - a. EDDC AONB parishes being led by Tracey Bell – first meeting on 31/3/2014 to bring together c. 10 parishes to develop a cohesive Neighbourhood plan which is perceived to be advantageous.
  - b. Churchstanton development applications have caused great concern in the Churchinford, with several applications by developers for a number of sites. A 30 house plan was rejected, but then replaced by a 20 house application, now agreed by TDBC with no apparent sign of AONB guidelines being acknowledged. The local planning steering group is very disillusioned about the planning process overall. Having won £3.8k from Awards for All to prepare a Parish Plan, there is now little will to complete this in view of the response from TDBC. Suggestion that a group of TDBC parishes gets together to lobby the planning department. AONB is concerned about TDBC as well, having had little success in having AONB statutory responsibilities acknowledged. Quantocks AONB has similar difficulties with TDBC. MDDC and EDDC are seen to be less resistant to comment from the AONB. Need to achieve a position that ensures that applications within the AONB have a different starting point so that suitable applications are made in the first place; if applications go to appeal the Borough or District Council have to foot the bill in the face of developers and therefore are less likely to refuse applications in the first place, however unsuitable for the location.  
Suggestion that the BHPN helps to develop District/Borough based parish subclusters to address this problem, All
  - c. MDDC Local Plan review consultation, deadline 24.3.2014. LT submitting comments on behalf of AONB, MDDC parishes also submitting their own together with individual householders. MDDC is proposing to expand village settlements limits of Hemyock (option of up to 200 extra houses by 2033) and Culmstock (option of up to 60 extra houses by 2033. Culmstock opposed.
  
- 4 Natural Futures group:  
BP recently elected chair of the new NF group. Currently preparing an activity plan, and selecting candidate sites to engage. Suggested that the NF group is discussed at the next general meeting of BHPN and that some information is put onto the BHPN website. BP/CB
  
- 5 Next BHPN general meeting
  - a. Venue & time: Suggest May 22 at 7.30 pm in Otterford Parish Hall, subject to HS agreement, notice needs to be out by April 10 CB
  - b. Agenda to include parish clusters for planning
  
- 6 Finance.  
Current account balance £2,595.27. A few parish contributions still outstanding after two reminders for this financial year amounting to £380.  
Agreed that BACS payments authorised by any of CB, LT or HS will be preceded by an email notifying the other two. Email authorisation facility is NOT operated by the bank as originally thought. Payments to CB will be by cheque with signatures from LT and HS
  
- 7 AOB and date of next steering group meeting All  
**April 9<sup>th</sup> 10 am at AONB office subject to confirmation from HS and CG**