

Dogmersfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – Minutes

Meeting of the Dogmersfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held on Monday 12 June 2017 in the Dogmersfield Primary School starting at 6.00pm.

Those attending

Steering Group Members:

Chris Ward (CW)
Valery Scott (VS)
Christine Lowe (CL)
Mark Lowe (ML)
Geoff Beaven (GB)

Alastair Clark (AC) representing Dogmersfield Parish Council.

Members of the public:

None present

1. Welcome and introductions.

GB welcomed all present to the Seventh meeting of the Dogmersfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. He explained that the meeting had been rescheduled from May to allow consideration of the updated version of the RCOH draft Vision Note. Apologies had been received from Lorraine Fullbrook and Carol Anne Harrison.

2. Acceptance of the notes of the meeting held on the 13th March 2017.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2017 were a true record (CW proposed, VS seconded with all in favour).

3. Actions Arising

GB stated that apart from acceptance of the minutes there no matters were resolved at the last meeting. The Steering Group did accept the Working Group recommendations regarding RCOH reconsideration of its draft Vision Note, meetings with Hart DC and the setting up of Sub Groups. These actions have been followed up and progress is reported under the next item.

4. Review of progress since the last meeting.

GB recalled that at the last meeting he reported that RCOH had produced a draft Vision Note which set out a road map for completing our neighbourhood plan but which also identified the key decisions that are needed to determine the shape and content of such a plan.

This draft was considered first by a working group and then by the Steering Group at which both recognised that the draft Vision Note was prepared on the basis of the best information available at the time of the Vision Workshop in December which included the potential for 141 new houses in the centre of Dogmersfield village as identified in Hart DC's Refined Options for Delivering New Homes consultation. Subsequent to preparation of the draft

Vision Note it had become apparent that in contrast the Draft Hart Local Plan does not propose to allocate any new housing to Dogmersfield.

In these circumstances the Steering Group concluded that RCOH should be given an opportunity to reconsider its Vision Note and a meeting was arranged with them on 14th March for this purpose. This was a very useful meeting which reviewed all of the relevant matters and RCOH agreed that they would revisit their conclusions in light of the new information and produce an updated draft Vision Note. We asked for this work to be completed before the end of the financial year and for an invoice to be submitted to allow this work to be covered by the currently available government grant funding.

On receipt of the invoice both the Steering Committee and the Parish Council agreed ex committee that the invoice should be paid leaving it to GB as chairman of the Parish Council to decide when best to do so. In the event he authorised payment of the invoice on the last day of March based on a promise by RCOH that the updated Vision Note would be delivered within a few days.

Paying the invoice before the end of the financial year has meant that all of the government grant that was received to date has been spent together with £218.52 of the grant from Hart DC. GB had intended to meet all of costs to date from the government grant but the rules around the end of the financial year have frustrated this aim. However, covering some of the costs from the Hart grant it does not represent a reduction in the total of grant monies available just a slight loss of flexibility.

The Parish Clerk and GB also compiled and submitted the required end of Grant Period report by the due date of 14th April and this has been accepted without significant comment by Groundwork.

In the event RCOH took longer to fully assess the implications of the Draft Hart Local Plan as they analysed both the Strategy and Sites Document and the Sustainability Appraisal. Their revised draft Vision Note was delivered in mid-May,

Consequently there was little reason to hold the meeting of the Steering Group which we had pencilled in for the 8th of May and this meeting was deferred until today.

CL reported that the Working Group (WG) had held one meeting to consider the Rev A version of the draft Vision Note. Although the underlying structure of the document has been retained much of its analysis and resulting proposals has been reworked. The WG focused on two aspects which were how to take the documents proposals forward and where to go with the document itself.

The earlier version of the draft Vision Note identified quite strategic decisions that were at that time needed to determine the shape and content of the neighbourhood plan. The Draft Local Plan consultation has narrowed down many of the open issues meaning that RCOH have now been able to identify specific policy areas that the plan could cover. The WG has considered these and concluded what work will be needed to firm up proactive and forward looking policies for each. The areas are:

Settlement Boundaries – The WG did not favour promoting boundary changes within the plan. It was noted that Hart DC will review the boundary in Part 2 of the Draft Local Plan. The WG strongly supported the request made by the Parish Council, in its response to the Draft Local Plan, for full consultation in that review.

Site Allocations – No firm conclusions were reached regarding site selection but policies would be investigated that might support particular types of sites.

Gaps – The Draft Hart Local Plan already includes a development gap between Crookham Village and Dogmersfield. The WG identified other opportunities and these will be investigated further to establish whether they can be promoted within the plan.

Local Green Spaces – There are obvious candidates for nomination under this new NPPF categorisation such as Pilcot Green. The WG identified other opportunities and these will be investigated further.

Rural Economy – The WG felt that within the parish leisure activities are an important element of the rural economy. Opportunities to enhance the scope and scale of the most commonly pursued activities will be investigated further.

The WG will provide a further report with firm recommendations on each of these areas.

With regard to the draft Vision Note the WG will identify changes needed and offer these to RCOH for inclusion in a final version. The aim being to have this version available for endorsement at a Steering Group meeting in July.

5. Consideration of next steps

It was agreed that there should be a further meeting of the WG to identify the specific actions that would be undertaken by the previously set up Sub Groups.

GB said he understood that government grant funding would cease at the end of the current year. The WG was asked as a matter of urgency to consider what further support it would require from RCOH to enable the Parish Council to submit a further grant application.

6. Next SG meetings will be held provisionally on the 10 July 2017.

7. AOB

Nothing was raised and GB closed the meeting at 6.45pm