

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF THE THURLESTONE PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Held in the Yeo Room of the Village Hall on 1 December 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Tony Goddard (Chairman) (AG), Sue Crowther (SC), Peter Hurrell (PH), Gary Luddington (GL), Kit Marshall (KM), David Martin (DM), Charlie Mitchelmore (CM), Robin MacDonald (RM), Judy Pearce (JP), Alan Taylor-Bigg (ATB), Chris White (CW).

1. **Mr Geoffrey Stidston (GS)** had been invited to attend the meeting as part of the evidence gathering function of the steering group. He was the second major landowner to be asked to meet the steering group.

The Chairman explained to GS that the minutes of the meeting, once approved by all present, would be made publicly available. He then asked GS for his vision of future development in the parish.

GS said he was aware that the government wanted growth, but said he doesn't like good agricultural land being built on. He thought that there may be certain parcels of land available in the parish that are of lesser agricultural value, but that he would have to discuss any proposals with his family.

GS was then asked if he were a member of the steering group, what he would like to see happen – or not?

He thought that if land was not good agricultural land, or if it was only suitable for grazing, then it could be considered for development.

A member of the group then asked which of the three parcels identified for the 1996 Local Plan would GS choose if he had to.

[These three parcels were (1) the field behind Parkfield and Parkfield Walk, (2) the old football field on the Bantham side of the road opposite the top of Court Park and (3) the land between Kerse Lane and Court Park].

GS replied that of these three sites, his personal view was that only the field behind Parkfield could possibly be considered, as it was an isolated holding, but in his opinion was still good agricultural land. He went on to say that part of Park Field had been 'taken from his father' after the Second World War to build council houses, which is now known as Parkfield. The other two parcels were essential to the farm for, amongst other things, moving stock and growing cereals. He said he may be able to help us identify where the less productive agricultural land is situated and again emphasised that he would be unwilling to see the best agricultural land used for development.

A member of the group suggested that all the development had been in Thurlestone village, with almost none in Bantham and Buckland; and another, asked about using land at the 'back' of the settlements further away from the sea, where all recent development had tended to be concentrated. GS agreed with the first speaker and suggested the steering group widened their search to include land such as Valleyside, land between Cedar Lodge and Burnt House, or the vale of Wetcombe, some of this being owned by GS and some not.

The interview concluded and GS left at approx. 7.50 pm

2. **Assessment of information obtained from Geoffrey Stidston:** The steering group recognised the importance of remaining impartial when interviewing and recording the views of various landowners.
3. **Apologies:** JM
4. **The Minutes of the last meeting** were discussed before agreement. Part 1 had been amended to make it clear that the opinions expressed were Nicholas Johnston's rather than those of the steering group. They now needed to be approved by Mr Johnston before they could be made publicly available.
5. **Progress against the project plan:** It was agreed to keep working on the evidence base and that a review of the next stage of evidence needed would be made in January. SC commended the working groups for the work done so far.
6. **Draft vision and objectives:** After some discussion, it was agreed to bring these to a future meeting.
7. **Availability of OS maps:** the Chairman has registered with OS and is to make contact with the officer at SHDC who can provide maps, as required, at modest cost.
8. **Reports from Working Groups:**
 - **Economy (GL)** Good progress was being made. GL and PH had identified barns which may be available for employment use and were going to talk to farmers. They had a contact who was in touch with those who ran businesses in the parish. They needed to approach possible people, but felt some format was needed for the questions in order to collect consistent information. It was agreed that the main aim was to seek opportunities for the future.
 - **Wellbeing (KM)** Twenty-one wellbeing organisations had been identified, interviews are being arranged and an inventory has been drawn up listing current facilities. Thirteen interviews have already been carried out.
 - **Housing (SC)** Interviews are being carried out with the chairmen of the Yarmer Estate and The Mead associations about the existing housing stock. CM and JP have conducted a survey of the central part of Thurlestone village, which has the only affordable housing in the parish. They are compiling a report using the proforma provided by SC. Other members of the group are being recruited in Buckland and Bantham to assist with the evidence gathering there.
9. **Appointment of survey manager:**

ATB had prepared a paper for the meeting and an advertisement had appeared in the Village Voice. A note had been sent to Phil Baker at SHDC and a reply was awaited.
10. **Funding Update:** DM had not managed to make much progress as he did not have the right link for the application form, which could only be filled in on line.

11. AOB: The Chairman has apologised about his words in the Village Voice about the parish website, which should launch in the next couple of weeks.

Actions:

- SC is collecting steering group members' bios and liaising with the parish website designers.
- CW and RM would draft a Neighbourhood Plan home page for the website.
- CW would investigate the DR Company (formerly known as Devon Renaissance), the organisation used for the broadband survey, to prepare the community Questionnaire/survey.

Dates:

- **Working Groups:** (GL, KM and SC) Wed 13 Jan 2016 at 10.00am, venue TBA
- **Steering Group:** Tuesday 2 February at 7.30pm in the Yeo Room.