

Beckingham Community Planning Group

Minutes of the meeting of Beckingham Community Planning Group held on Thursday 29th April 2010 in the Village Hall at 7.00 pm.

Present: Julia Wallace (Chairman)
 Andrew Young (Secretary)
 Karen Ashworth
 James Keane

1. Welcome and Apologies

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and handed out copies on CD of the “toolkit” prepared by Community Lincs.

Apologies for absence were recorded for Neil Williams and Andrea Thompson.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 23rd March 2010 had been circulated in advance and were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

It was agreed that minutes of meetings should be submitted for publication on the village web site only after being agreed so that minutes of two meetings could now be sent.

3. Matters Arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered by other items on the agenda.

4. Report from Parish Council.

Everyone present had been at the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council, both held on 26th April. The advertised meeting on 6th April had been cancelled.

Karen Ashworth reported the Parish Council had accepted the concept of community led planning and had agreed in principle that it would provide funding where appropriate for small items of expenditure. A confirmatory letter was expected from the Parish Clerk but had not yet been received.

In discussion, it was also believed that the Parish Council accepted this Group was a Committee of the Council and covered by its insurance.

5. Constitution

The secretary had prepared a revised draft of the proposed Constitution including amendments to reflect that the Group is a Committee of the Parish Council. The chairman said the draft covered all the points she had noted from the Toolkit.

The amended constitution was adopted and it was agreed a copy should be submitted for publication on the village web site.

6. Officer Roles and Responsibilities

The chairman read out suggested officer responsibilities from the Toolkit. These were broadly agreed. Andrew Young added that as secretary he was willing to aim to circulate minutes within 7 days after a meeting and an agenda at least 7 days before a meeting.

It was noted that the officers and other members had incurred and were willing to incur expenditure as well as giving time and energy to the Group. However, the officer roles did not, as such, require officers to incur personal expenditure without re-imburement.

The Toolkit also suggested possible officer roles for a “volunteer co-ordinator” and a “publicity officer”. It was agreed neither of these was needed at present.

7. Involvement with Other People

(a) Children – and the Village Fête

The fête on 19th June was discussed. This seemed a good opportunity to involve many people in different ways, but especially children.

It was agreed to ask the fête organising group to use the theme “My Village: My Future” for the cartoon competition – with explanation that this could include any aspect the cartoonist liked; disliked or would like.

It was also agreed to seek further views from everyone through a “reply slip” people could take and return throughout the afternoon. In discussion, the Group realised it would probably not be possible to be both simple can comprehensive. The secretary will prepare a first draft for discussion.

The Group discussed other possibilities such as a giant village map where people could mark what they would like. The Group will discuss with the organisers what space is needed. Discussion will continue.

(b) Other Village Organisations

The letters to other organisations had not yet all been sent. It was agreed these should emphasise the Group's desire for co-operation with other bodies and mutual benefit.

There was discussion about the village hall and how to get genuine and realistic views from the village. It should be possible to open discussion whether the existing building is capable of providing what villagers really want in future while still recognising the efforts and achievements of the members of the Village Hall Management Committee. Karen Ashworth was asked to obtain the plans for a new hall made some years ago (if the Parish Council still had them) because this would provide a "snapshot" of what had been wanted at one time in the past.

(c) Individual villagers

The Group will try to put information on the village web site but realised not everyone uses the internet much or visits the site.

The chairman will talk to the editor of the "Bugle" about news items with a view to giving her something for the next issue by 23rd May.

8. "Quick Wins"

It was again noted that some early results might inspire villagers to realise the Group's work could bring results but many of the suggestions from the meeting in November were longer term or potentially controversial so needed to go through the whole process. The only possible candidates identified were ideas for classes etc in the village hall (yoga, dance, Pilates, etc.). It was agreed the Group could take a two pronged approach:-

- seek more views and possible support from villagers; and
- contact providers (possibly asking Community Lincs for names) to publicise the availability of the hall).

9. Project Plan

Members had considered the draft plan from the Toolkit but felt it was too early to commit to a detailed, timed plan. Karen Ashworth suggested the Group should continue seeking broad ideas and priorities from villagers until November this year. Andrew Young said he had done very rough calculations of how long it might take to deal with questionnaires and the final report and they also suggested November this year to start work on the questionnaire.

10. Financial Matters

There were none.

11. Any Other Relevant Business

There was none.

12. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting

It was suggested that monthly meetings may be appropriate generally. The next meetings were agreed to be held on:-

Thursday 20th May

Thursday 17th June

Thursday 22nd July,

each at 7.00 pm in the village hall. The Group will aim to end meetings by 8.30.

It was agreed meetings could be held elsewhere if it helped villagers know more of what the Group was doing.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Agreed as a true record *J. Wallace*. (Chairman)

Dated 20th May 2010