

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE HELD AT  
THE OLD MINING COLLEGE CENTRE, QUEEN STREET, BURNTWOOD  
ON TUESDAY 24 MAY 2016 COMMENCING AT 7.00 P.M.**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Mosson (in the Chair)  
Councillors Mrs Conolly, Mrs Evans, Humphreys and Mrs Stokes (from 7.08 pm)

**In attendance**

Mrs M Danby, Chief Executive Officer  
Ms J Minor, Senior Administration Officer  
V Chamberlain, Burntwood Action Group  
Mrs S Fletcher  
I Holdsworth  
P Holland (from 7.20 pm)  
Pastor R Lewis  
S Norman  
K Stanley  
Mrs J Taylor  
M Wellock, Kirkwells Consultancy

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and suggested that as there were new faces around the table that members re-introduce themselves.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Mrs Banevicius.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

None declared.

**3. MINUTES**

Members made reference to Minute No. 32 - Minutes and asked if fixed date(s) could be made in future. Members were informed that two suggested dates would be put forward at the end of the meeting.

Pastor Lewis made reference to Minute No. 33 - Burntwood Neighbourhood Plan (last paragraph) and confirmed that the purpose built community/conference centre would be built on the same site as the current Emmanuel Church.

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee held on 26 April 2016 (Minute Nos. 30-34) be received and approved subject to the following amendments:

Minute No. 33 - Burntwood Neighbourhood Plan that "others Parish Councils had done" should be amended to read "other Parish Councils had done" and that the word "agricultural" should be amended to read "architectural".

#### **4. BURNTWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Chairman asked Mr Holdsworth if he had contacted the Family History Group and the 1<sup>st</sup> Burntwood Scouts. Mr Holdsworth confirmed that he had made contact with the Family History Group who would be emailing their members and gathering information together. Mr Holdsworth confirmed that he would be undertaking a session after half term with the 1<sup>st</sup> Burntwood Scouts (cubs section) to ascertain their views.

The Chairman asked Mr Norman if he had contacted the two Secondary Schools. Mr Norman confirmed that he had contacted Erasmus Darwin Academy (EDA) but had received no feedback. Mr Norman confirmed that he would be chasing up EDA.

Mr Norman confirmed that display boards were on display at Chase Terrace Technology College (Sixth Form Common Room) and together with Mr Dowling (Director of Sixth Form Studies) he had undertaken a session and asked that the pupils fill in a questionnaire and deposit it in the suggestion box. It was hoped that feedback would be received shortly.

The Chairman confirmed, as agreed at the last meeting of the Committee, that he had together with Councillor Mrs Fisher taken photographs of the open spaces.

Mr Wellock said that the material gathered on the public houses, schools and library by Mr Holland was very good and was the level that should be aimed for. Mr Wellock stated that the Committee needed to look again at the Vision and that the table needed to be completed for the public open spaces.

Mr Wellock pointed out that what was missing was the shopping/local commercial area detail. The Chairman said that a similar exercise to identify what's good, what's not so good and what the Town needs, needs to be undertaken. Mr Wellock pointed out that LDC have a set of policies that strategically sets out what the Town needs.

Members asked where the Vision which appeared on Facebook (Memories of Burntwood and Chasetown) had come from. Members were informed that the Vision had been written by Councillor Humphreys and that Ms Minor had become a member of the Facebook page on behalf of the Committee.

Mrs Taylor felt that the Chasetown area in particular was not very well represented at LDC and that she had spoken to over 300 people regarding the road network. Members informed Mrs Taylor that she needed to record it, as evidence was what was needed for the Plan. Mrs Taylor informed Members that she had not known about the consultation event at the OMCC.

Members asked why we were holding onto an asset, for example public houses which are closing nationally at a rate of four per day - we need to face reality. Members felt that they did not know if major high street retailers would come to Burntwood.

Mr Wellock stated that there is a limit as to how many times you can ask local people for their views. You could say "this is what you have told us" then more detail/evidence is needed in the document. Mr Wellock pointed out that if the Neighbourhood Plan wanted to protect local shops etc so that they cannot change use only in certain circumstances, then one way would be to have a policy in the Plan to protect them. Mr Wellock suggested that more time be spent on collecting and adding detail.

Members felt that Burntwood had more to offer some 30/40 years ago for example a cinema and suggested a "build it and they will come" attitude towards retail, however, Members felt that the empty shop units needed to be filled before new shops are built as there is a big expanding population.

Members also felt however, that large retail outlets would "kill off" the smaller shops (local shops are invaluable) and are not always accessible. The current facilities need to be made more attractive.

Members felt that the youth are the town's future and it is hoped that they could come back to Burntwood after, for example, university. Members pointed out that as the Town Council does not own any land we are dependent upon developers and that LCP have land banked in the past.

Pastor Lewis made reference to the youth club which is currently being run by Emmanuel Church on Fridays which attracts up to 30 people aged between 10 and 15 years. He said that the "hub" was a shining example of creating a good atmosphere for the youth of today.

It was pointed out by members that the number one issue after the consultation exercise was that people wanted to see a new Town Centre however this can only be achieved by using "someone else's money".

Members felt that the Committee was at the stage of roughly identifying pockets of land (e.g. key strategic areas for shops). Mr Wellock pointed out that LDC's strategy policies already sets out these and this is not going to change. However, these could be reiterated, i.e. "flag it up" in the document.

Mr Wellock said that more detail/nitty gritty was needed for example traffic issues, there is more street furniture at Sankey's Corner than he has seen elsewhere (less is more - no continuity), issue about vacant units. The Plan needs to identify what makes the place, (strengthen Burntwood's identity), encourage more users etc.

Members felt that the type of retail needs to complement what is already there at Sankey's Corner and make the pedestrian walk through from Morrisons to Sankey's Corner more attractive.

Members asked what leisure facilities were available for the 30/50 age group as it was felt that there was no cultural facilities (arts, theatre).

Members felt that the parking restrictions did not help the situation.

Members asked if (under Draft Policy B6 Promoting Good Quality Design in New Housing Development, para 3. Accessibility) could be more defined – remove the wording “wherever possible” and replace with “must”. Mr Wellock said that as a Committee we should decide on the wording.

The Chairman asked if the best way forward was to form little groups to look at the finer detail. It was **AGREED** that Councillor Mosson together with Mr Wellock would come up with a structure/agenda. Mr Wellock suggested an interim half day session to look at detailed policy ideas/proposals.

Members asked where we were with regard to page 6 - Neighbourhood Plan Process. Mr Wellock confirmed that the Plan was still in the red zone.

With regard to shopping, Mr Wellock suggested a proforma for Town Centre health checks.

Members asked if the Plan could incorporate public houses with shops. Mr Wellock confirmed that Class A retail and public houses are different things, however, the Plan could identify pubs which the Town Council would like to protect (which offer a rich heritage to the area) and restricting other uses on the premises in question.

Members felt that the Plan needed to be flexible as not all public houses are viable and not all of historical value (Grade I or II).

Mr Wellock confirmed that the Plan could have a policy to regularise the use of the premises and another policy to list non-historical buildings.

Members felt that schools should be a priority for the Town and it was pointed out that The Ridgeway School was in fact in Hammerwich. Mr Wellock pointed out that schools are of less of a risk however more fine detail could be added, for example access improvements, schools involvement in the community. Members were informed that Sport England protects school fields at the moment, however, Mr Wellock suggested that these could be identified and protected as green spaces in the Plan.

Mr Stanley suggested the following Vision:

“By 2029 Burntwood will be a healthy, vibrant, sustainable community that serves the needs of all its’ people and is open to new opportunities”.

It was **AGREED** that an email be sent to all Members asking for any other suggestions for the Vision.

Members asked if S106/CIL money could be used to improve buildings etc as this could be an important part of the Neighbourhood Plan. Members were informed that there is a multitude of uses where CIL monies could be used however it is the landowners’ choice as to what they want to use their land for.

Members asked why was the date up to 2029. Mr Wellock confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan needed the same timeframe as LDC’s Local Plan.

The Chairman confirmed that photographs had been taken of the open spaces currently maintained by LDC. The Chairman confirmed that Spinney Close was a small

pocket of open space which was relatively hidden away; on the Hunslet Estate there is a historical cooking apple tree which has a TPO.

It was **AGREED** that Councillor Mosson would complete the open spaces table against the national criteria.

The Chairman thanked Mr Chamberlain for providing photographs of several sites around the town. Mr Wellock said that the photographs need evidence (historical interest).

It was **AGREED** that Mr Chamberlain would liaise with Mr Holland to compile the written evidence.

The following action list was **AGREED**:

- a. Councillor Mosson would complete the open spaces table against the national criteria.
- b. An email would be sent to all Members relating to the Vision.
- c. Mr Chamberlain in liaison with Mr Holland would provide written evidence relating to the old school site; building at the junction of Farewell Lane and St Matthews Road; cottage in Farewell Lane.
- d. Councillor Mosson in liaison with Mr Wellock would set an agenda for the interim half day to be held on a Saturday (light buffet, tea and coffee to be provided).
- e. Mr Norman to identify the shops/parking issues in Morley Road, Swan Island and Ryecroft.
- f. Mrs Taylor to identify the shops/parking issues in High Street, Chasetown and Sankey's Corner.
- g. The Chief Executive Officer would make investigations with a view to obtaining a proforma for Town Centre health checks.

## **5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was **AGREED** that Committee meetings would be held on 05 July 2016 and 16 August 2016.

(The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.)

Signed .....

Date .....