

**Minutes of the Meeting of Ashton Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Committee held  
on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7.15 pm at Ashton Primary School**

**Present:** Cllrs Lemon, Johnson and Roychoudhury

**Clerk :** John Marshall

8 members of the public

**Action**

2016/

**1. Election of Chairman:**

Cllr Roychoudhury was proposed and there being no other nominations, was elected unanimously.

**2. Public session:**

Members of the public enquired regarding what use could be made of the work and outputs from the previous Neighbourhood Planning Group and the possible location for a village hall. The Chairman advised that these matters would be dealt with later in the Agenda.

**3. Appointment of additional members to the Committee:**

Mr Glenn Otto, Mr Graham Laidler and Mrs Lesley Godfrey were proposed to fill the 3 non-councillor vacancies on the Committee and were elected unanimously.

The Chairman advised that in the light of information to hand, he intended to take Agenda item 7, Application for grant funding as the next item of business.

**7. Application for grant funding:**

The Clerk advised that staged grant funding of £9,000 max was available from central government to assist parish councils with development of a Neighbourhood Plan; this information had first been conveyed to the previous Group in May of this year.. However, rather than applying for blanket funding, the Council must provide a detailed, costed breakdown, with estimates of how the funds will be used. The Clerk had spoken to the grant funding advisor who had suggested that it was quite normal, indeed almost expected that councils would procure paid-for specialist advice and support to guide it through the process. It would be sensible to secure advice early on, to avoid making mistakes that would set back the work if it was found to be flawed at the independent scrutiny stage. The Committee resolved to apply for funding, but not until it had researched the availability of specialist advice. Cllr Johnson and Mr Otto agreed to undertake this research and to report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

**GO, CJ**

**4 & 5. Proposed work programme, time-table for delivery and establishment of working groups:**

Deferred to next meeting.

**6. Secretarial and administrative arrangements:**

Cllr Lemon agreed to provide this service for the Committee; this was unanimously accepted. The Clerk advised that as this is a Committee of the Parish Council, Agendas and Minutes will need to be produced and published in the normal way and these will be posted on the Neighbourhood Plan page of the Council's website to ensure we meet the requirements of openness and transparency; SNC has already noted this as a weakness in the previous arrangements. Posting of Agendas and Minutes will continue to be via the Clerk to Alan Beber.

**8. Communications and publicity:**

It was agreed that keeping the community engaged and informed on progress and developments was important and that information would also be circulated via the AVN and the village e-mail network.

**9. Next steps and does Ashton want a village hall:**

Cllr Lemon explained that this matter arose from a conversation with Chartwell Industries (CI) who had suggested that they would be willing to consider offering the community a parcel of land on the north side of Stoke Road, at the western approach to the village in the vicinity of Mens Own RFC, free of charge. The proposal would be that CI applied for planning permission for the community to be able to commission and build a community building, say a village hall on half of the land with the other half being a commercial building, say a shop. Obtaining planning permission (PP) in that way would allow CI to sell the commercial half with PP, thereby recovering their costs. It was agreed that this question needs to be put to the whole community but before doing so, because of the location and access, it needs to be established whether PP is likely to be forthcoming. Cllr Roychoudhury agreed to speak to Jennie Johnson, SNC Planning Officer in the first instance to seek her views..

**JR**

**10. Future meetings and date of next meeting:**

The next meeting was arranged for Wed 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.15pm at the School. Cllr Lemon to check availability and confirm.

**SL**

Cllr Roychoudhury closed the meeting at 8.05pm

DRAFT