

**Valley Parishes Alliance Meeting  
Annual General Meeting  
10<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
Monkton Combe Village Hall**

**Present:** Hugh Delap (Freshford), Simon Coombe (Limpley Stoke), Des Wighton (Monkton Combe), Nick Stevens – (Freshford), Lyn Alvis (Monkton Combe), Tony McCann (Bathampton), Hugh Baker (Bathford), Anna Beria (Claverton), Steve Mackerness (Bathford) and Vito Pecchia (Batheaston).

Ingrid Maher Roberts – Minute secretary

<p><b>1.0 Apologies for Absence:</b> Apologies were received from Alan Parker (Westwood), Robin Davies (Winsley)</p> <p><b>2.0 Minutes from pervious meetings 11.06.2014 and matters arising.</b> Following some minor amendments the minutes were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the chairman. Any matters arising were dealt with in the meetings agenda items.</p> <p><b>3.0 Bath Transportation Consultation – VPA response</b> SC summarised the response from the VPA and Batheaston to the recent Bath Transportation Consultation. VP reiterated that B&amp;NES has not provided adequate detailed information on any of their transport plans and therefore Batheaston PC could not make a fully informed decision. All were in agreement that this was a complex issue and that transport in and around Bath needed a holistic view and that more information is required.</p> <p>The VPA is pushing for greater dialogue between B&amp;NES and Wilts to find a better transport solution. AB shared a letter from John Potter Mayor of Bradford On Avon, who had written to her highlighting his support for the A350 as a potential alternative route to the A36. VP queried if the A350 was a realistic and viable option, if it was not deemed a strategic route by the Highways Agency? This would be a requirement if it were to be used as an alternative route to the A36. HD highlighted to VPA members that at the meeting with Sean Walsh from the HA, Sean had given the impression that the A350 could be a possible alternative route.</p> <p>VPA members agreed that no further response was required to the BTC.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The VPA agreed that AB should respond informally to John Potter agreeing in principle to his letter.</p>	<b>AB</b>
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4.0	<b>VPA Highways Agency Meeting 09.09.2014</b>	
	<p>HD informed VPA members that they had another positive meeting with the HA. Sean Walsh talked about the reorganisation of the HA coming into effect in 2015. VPA members will notice very little difference on the ground, but in essence the reorganisation will mean that the HA will have more control over projects on a local level. SW confirmed that Claverton will get speed restriction signs and that the closure of the A36 for essential works has been moved back to Easter 2015.</p>	
	<p><b>Action:</b> HD to distribute minutes of the VPA Highways meeting once drafted.</p>	<b>HD</b>
5.0	<b>B&amp;NES Community Infrastructure Levy Consultation</b>	
	<p>SM presented the VPA with a brief paper on the keys points of the CIL consultation. The intention of CIL is to fund or upgrade infrastructure required by developments and is intended to replace the current Section 106 charges in England.</p>	
	<p>The VPA responded to the initial consultation 2 years ago, objecting to the absolute rate of the charges. This has been taken on board and the new scheme is proposing a residential rate (other rates exist for retails, hotels and supermarkets) of £100 across the entire area. Comparing the CIL rates for residential development in surrounding authorities, £100sqm is extremely high Wiltshire is £55, Bristol is £50, Swindon £55 and Exeter £80.</p>	
	<p><b>Action:</b> The VPA supported SM's recommendation to make a further representation suggesting that the rate be lowered to be more in line with surrounding authorities. SM to send response and share with VPA prior to submission.</p>	<b>SM</b>
6.0	<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>	
	<p>Freshford &amp; Limpley Stokes Neighbourhood Plan has yet to go out for public consultation. The delay is due to the need for both Local Authorities to sign a further Memorandum of Understanding – just as they were required to do before the formal designation of the Plan could be announced. This is uncharted waters for both legal departments and has necessarily required a considerable amount of toing and froing to get the proposals in a form acceptable to both parties. The Plan is not site specific and therefore will only require a desktop inspection.</p>	
7.0	<b>VPA K&amp;A Canal Committee</b>	
	<p>Matthew Symonds's Canal Mooring 3 month report has been distributed to VPA members. Following a recruitment drive throughout the VPA, they have one new volunteer warden for Bathampton, but they could still do with other wardens for Claverton and Dundas. No VPA members were happy to take on chairing the K&amp;A Canal committee</p>	

<p><b>Action:</b> Review again at next VPA meeting</p> <p><b>8.0 VPA Chairman</b>  SC informed the VPA that he would be stepping down as Chair of Limpley Stoke PC at their AGM in March. He agreed to continue chairing the VPA until that time. If no chair steps forward then this position will be done on a rotation basis by the Parishes.</p> <p><b>9.0 Finance</b>  There are two outstanding subscription payments due, but these are in hand and payment should be made shortly.</p> <p><b>10.0 AOB</b>  SM wished to send a gentle reminder to Winsley PC that they had agreed to replace the stolen finger signs in Conkwell and this has yet to be done.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 2.00pm</p> <p>NEXT VPA Meetings: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015</p> <p>Monkton Combe Village Hall</p>	<p><b>SC &amp; IMR</b></p>
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