

**Minutes of the Acomb Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting held
in
Acomb Village Hall on Tuesday 11th October 2016 at 6.30pm**

1. Present: Jane Wrigley (Acomb Parish Council, and Steering Group Chair)
Lorna Farr (Acomb Parish Council/Action 4 Acomb)
Sybil Gill (Acomb Parish Council)
Norman Robson (Local Resident/ Minutes Secretary)

Invited guests: Bill Grigg (Clerk to Acomb Parish Council and Steering Group
Secretary/Treasurer)
Jenny Ludman (Independent *Planning* Consultant)

2. Apologies:

Charles Enderby (Chairman, Acomb Parish Council)
Matilda Bevan (Local Resident)
Rachel Gagliano (Action 4 Acomb)
Naomi Liller (Acomb Parish Council)
David English (Strategic Planning and Housing, NCC)

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 20th September 2016:

These were accepted as a true record.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the agenda

Norman confirmed that all the photographs from the Consultation Event had been passed to Rachel for inclusion on the website.

5. Appointment of consultant Jenny Ludman

Jenny Ludman had been appointed as the Consultant to the Steering Group. Jenny was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made. It was agreed that she would review the work completed to date, including the Action4Acomb Community-Led Plan (submitted by Lorna), the NP Consultation Event Report, Website data and Draft Vision and Objectives.

Jane would send a copy of the NP Contact List to Jenny, together with the latest version of the draft Vision and Objectives.

Action: Jane Wrigley

6. Grant Application to Locality

Jane had submitted a Grant Application to Locality, to cover the costs of the first stage of consultancy input to the NP Project. A response was expected within 10 working days.

7. The Hermitage – views on future land-use for this site

As it was understood that the property was up for sale and several developers had expressed interest, it was agreed that it would be useful to explore the group's views on the site. The group looked at the current designation of the Hermitage- the western portion was allocated for up to 8 dwellings, probably upgrading or conversion of the existing listed buildings, while the eastern parkland was considered unsuitable for development. The site was in the Green Belt. The main house itself was in need of significant restoration work. Issues surrounding the site included flood management and road accessibility. After some discussion, it was agreed that:

- The group supported sympathetic renovation and development of the existing buildings, and agreed that it was important that, where empty, these should be brought back into use e.g. as apartments, care home, hotel. The group was not in favour of further development of the site.
- The group was very aware of the positive contribution which the parkland gave to the entrance to Hexham, and to the views from Tyne Green. This should be enhanced and cherished for future generations.
- Group members also appreciated the vital role which the land at the Hermitage played in delineating and separating the communities of Hexham and Acomb.
- The group agreed that all rights of way and present public access should be maintained.

The group would agree next steps at the next Steering Group meeting.

8. Updates: Housing Need Survey
A draft Housing Needs Survey for Acomb had been very recently issued (restricted circulation). There would be two meetings to discuss this document and the wider Hexham survey, one wc October 17th for Hexham Town and Acomb Parish Councillors and Steering Group members and an open Hexham Neighbourhood Plan Forum meeting on Wed October 26th. In advance of these meetings, Jane asked for any comments to be sent to her as soon as possible so that Acomb's views could be shared with the consultant arc4.

Steering Group vacancy

The vacancy remains and it is being advertised widely. Current Group Members are also asked to pursue informal contacts to find someone.

Consultation statement

Jane is currently working on the Consultation Statement, which is a record of the Group's activities to date

Website

The website is up to date with all current documents.

9. Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 6.30 on 15th November 2016.

The meeting closed at 7.30