

Minutes of the Acomb Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting held in Acomb Village Hall on Tuesday 13th June 2017 at 6.30pm

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1. Present: Norman Robson (Local Resident/Steering Group Chair)

Lorna Farr (Acomb Parish Council/Action 4 Acomb)
Jane Wrigley (Local Stakeholder)
Rachel Gagliano (Acomb Parish Council)
Matilda Bevan (Local Resident/Minutes Secretary)

Invited Guests: Bill Grigg (Clerk to Acomb Parish Council and Steering Group Secretary/Treasurer)
Jenny Ludman (Ludman Planning)
Chris Anderson Planning Officer (Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure)

2. Apologies: Naomi Liller (Local Resident)
Charles Enderby (Chairman, Acomb Parish Council)

3. Norman Robson is formally endorsed as the Steering Group's Chair. He thanked Jane for fulfilling the role till now. He welcomed everyone. Jane is appointed Vice-Chair, unopposed. Bill Grigg has been appointed to identify Locality and Groundwork for planning Applications. Although Naomi is often unable to attend meetings, she offered to stay on the Steering Group and contribute in any way she can. Sybil Gill has resigned from the Steering Group. Barry Knott has resigned from the Steering Group.

4. Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 9th May 2017 were approved.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes:

Lorna requested that the minutes be amended by omitting the words "via the Parish Council" from Paragraph 6f. The minutes have been amended. Matilda has requested from Tim Fish of NCC a map of Acomb Parish footpaths and Bridleways. Chris recommends finding this on the NCC website, he will send the link. Norman has outlined 8 Green Spaces onto paper version of Acomb Parish map, Chris will take this to the Planning Department to be scanned for into an electronic version. Lorna recommends including photos and diagrams in flood prevention policy for clarity. Only part of the Industrial Estate is designated Employment Land. The businesses or owners on the rest of the land need to be consulted, as at present it is unprotected from potential development. Richard Heslop is one landowner on the Industrial Estate. Chris suggests engaging as many younger people as possible in the NP process, for involvement in the pre-submission stage in September: WI, Youth Club, Wednesday Mother & Toddlers at the School, are all groups to approach. Trevor Cessford is the new County Councillor. Norman will invite him to attend our Steering Group meetings. Jenny and Chris suggested that we have sufficient SG numbers.

6. Approval of Questionnaire:

Local residents' comments are currently themed (by Lorna) towards being analysed.

Norman suggests that by re-ordering the comments they lose some of their verbatim authenticity. For the website it is agreed to publish both the raw data and the

themed data.

The Consultation result was that 90% of local residents approved our Objectives and Vision.

The Report is not ready for approval. Over the next seven days (by Tuesday 20th June) the SG will study the report and subsequent proposed revisions and circulate views amongst each other.

Jenny Ludman has submitted a Policy Development Template that David English and Chris Anderson thoroughly endorse, for our use.

7. Preparation of Policies:

Looking at Objectives (as described in the most recent Questionnaire) which inform Policy-making:

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Objective 1 – Community Facilities and Local Green Space

Bill will ask via the Parish Council what the local requirement is for new allotment space.

The last two points of the current Objective are to be left out.

Chris recommends making a 'local mini-audit' of Acomb's community facilities, the condition they are in, their primary use, and the services provided by each. He offers useful criteria to follow, will send these to Lorna who offers to carry this out, assisted by Norman if necessary.

Objective 2 – Flooding

The second point only will be kept. The first is not valuable, Jenny suggested.

Objective 3 – Traffic, Walking and Cycling in Acomb

The first point covers relevant needs.

To bear in mind that for example, a new cycle route between Acomb and Hexham would require Planning Permission. Identify specific proposals on the map.

Howford Lane is identified as a hazard for pedestrians, with increasing heavy industrial traffic using it. Provision for improved pedestrian access in the future should be required if there is future development of the Quarry Site.. The SG is to ask Charles Enderby to discuss this with the Quarry.

Objective 4 – Housing

93% of the public approved our Housing Objective.

There are no more housing development sites allocated in Acomb. There is no identified need.

The Settlement Boundary, surrounded by Green Belt, must be identified. Does it include the economic site or not?

Amalgamate the two policies into one.

Objective 5 – Local Employment and Business

Leaving this open pending further work.

Next to Pit Heaps (Green Space) is not allocated as Employment Land but is used

as such by Coach/Coal/Scrap/Wood yards. The owner is unknown. Coal Board?
Chris suggests – give the businesses the dilemma/question. What are their aspirations? Should the land status be left as is or protection applied?

The caravan park may wish to diversify in the future.

Objective 6 – Heritage, Conservation and Buildings

Identify what the key local vernacular is. Key buildings or walls, not necessarily Listed. E.g. Barracks, "Lily's house".

The Policy cannot be detailed but supporting evidence is needed in the form of the ACACA.

Rachel mentioned old gas street light columns remaining in the village.

Summary:

Ten Policy points have been identified.

The templates are to be filled in by Jenny.

Norman will email documents to Rachel for the website.

The meeting closed at 8.30.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 19th July at 6.30.