

ACOMB NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on Wed July 19th 2017 at 6.30pm in Acomb Village Hall

- 1. Present:** Norman Robson (local resident, in the chair), Matilda Bevan (local resident), County Cllr. Trevor Cessford, Cllr Lorna Farr (Acomb Parish Council/Action4Acomb), Cllr Rachel Gagliano (Acomb Parish Council), Jane Wrigley (local stakeholder and Minutes)

Invited Guest: Jenny Ludman, Ludman Planning

- 2. Apologies for absence:** Chris Anderson (Planning Officer), Cllr Charles Enderby, Bill Grigg

County Councillor Trevor Cessford, newly elected ward member for Hexham Central with Acomb, was welcomed to his first meeting.

- 3. Minutes of the last meeting held on Tues June 13th:** were agreed a true record.

4. Matters/Actions arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the agenda:)

- Amend previous minutes – now completed (Norman)
- Supply link to NCC footpaths ... - completed (Chris)
- Electronically map local green spaces – in progress (Chris)
Action: Chris
- Invite Cllr Trevor Cessford to the next meeting – done (Norman)
- Submit potential amendments to the Spring 2017 Questionnaire and Open Event report ... - done (all)
- Parish Council to be asked what demand there is for allotments. Bill Grigg had responded that demand was very limited. It was agreed that there did not appear to be enough interest to warrant designating more land, but that it would be useful to approach the Parish Council and ask them to consider setting up a waiting list.
Action: Lorna
- Create mini-audit of Acomb's community facilities – in progress (Norman and Lorna). Lorna had suggested several amendments to the pro forma, and would circulate these to the steering group for discussion and comment.
Action: Lorna
- Discuss with quarry owner any plans to expand the business, with reference to a possible Policy re a Howford Lane bridle path - in progress (Charles)
Action: Charles
- Reconsider local employment and business objectives and potential Policies. It was agreed that the Green Belt boundary should be regarded as the settlement boundary for Acomb Village, but there was no wish to

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designate the currently undesignated land along the A6079 for any specific purpose. It was agreed that further discussion and research was required.

Action: all

- Identify and define "local vernacular" of the Conservation Area This had been addressed in part by Jane's paper. It was agreed that Jenny would forward the English Heritage methodology for identifying buildings of non-designated heritage value to Jane to assess local buildings.

Action: Jenny, Jane

- Complete policy development template documents ... - completed (Jenny)
- Norman thanked Jenny for this very useful material
- Identify documents missing from the website – now up to date (Norman, Rachel).

5. Approval of Questionnaire and Event Report: The report was approved, and it was agreed that the final version should be published on the website.

Action: Norman, Rachel

6. Verbal Report from Footpaths Group at A4A Meeting on 13th July (Jane, Lorna, Matilda): This had been a very positive meeting, attended by several members of the Acomb Footpath Group. Most of the focus had been on key routes e.g. the link from the bottom of Garden House Bank to the old Hexham road, and a possible parallel bridleway from Howford Road Ends along Howford Lane (both already under consideration by the Parish Council and the Approach to the Village Group). The Group had been invited to bring more detailed proposals to the September Parish Council meeting. Jane thanked Lorna for setting up the meeting.

Jenny advised that the Neighbourhood Plan could include recommendations for specific routes, as long as they fitted with the overarching policy.

7. Policy Pro-Forma documents: Norman thanked Jenny for the tremendous amount of work which had been involved in these very useful templates. Jane asked whether the withdrawal of the Core Strategy would have any impact. Jenny replied that it would not affect the progress of the Acomb Neighbourhood Plan. Trevor added that the county-wide housing allocation was likely to be reduced significantly.

At Norman's suggestion, it was **agreed** that Steering Group members should take responsibility for individual policies, checking accuracy (correct local names etc), considering areas to be covered, further wording where required, as follows:

Policy 1: Local Green Spaces: Norman

Policy 2: Community Facilities: Lorna

Policy 3: Flooding: Lorna

Policy 4: Cycling and Walking: Matilda and Jane

Policy 5: Howford Haulage Yard (Recycling Site): Norman would approach Charles

Policy 6: Infill Housing: Rachel

Policy 7: Business/Employment: Norman

Policy 8: Acomb Conservation Area: Jane

Policy 9: Non-designated Heritage Assets: Jane (who agreed to contact the Acomb Local History Society for further information and views)

Action: All

Progress would be discussed at the next SG meeting.

8. Review of Progress to Date: Jenny commented that the group was making good progress, according to the project plan.

9. What next – mapping out actions for the remainder of 2017: In response to Norman, Jenny advised that the Neighbourhood Plan itself should be brief and to the point, but it obviously needed to be supported by further evidence and background information, which must be accessible to the Inspector i.e. on the website. Jenny wondered if further policies were required beyond those already identified e.g. for the wider rural area outside the village? Trevor suggested looking at other Neighbourhood Plans. Norman agreed to forward links to the Allendale and Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plans.

Action: Norman

10. Website: This was now up to date. Norman will send Rachel the final questionnaire report and June minutes for publication on the website.

Action: Norman, Rachel

11. Date of next meeting: Tues August 15th at 6.30pm in Acomb Village Hall?