

STEERING GROUP MEETING / OPEN FORUM

Minutes of the 23rd meeting – 25th April 2018 (fin)

Held in The George Inn, Upstairs Meeting Room, Maulden from 20:00hrs.

Present:	Observers	Apologies
Steering/Working Group Members Simon Barnes [Vice Chair] Cllr Philip Jackson Lesley Illingworth (Minutes Secretary)	David Illingworth Barbara McCourt Michael McCourt Leslee Reynolds Cath Bennyworth Russ Aston Lisa Stephens James Quinn	Alan Plom) Steering Roger Ball) Group Mark Bingham) Members Cllr Phil Allen Cllr Paul Downing Ian & Joyce Ormrod Ruth Plom

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND UPDATE

- (i) Simon Barnes (SB) welcomed everyone. Apologies that had been received were recorded – as only 2 members of the Steering Group were present this limited the scope of the meeting.
- (ii) SB went through the previous Minutes and explained the planning process to the new people present. (See more detail in 4.3(ii))
- (iii) SB and Phil Jackson (PJ) reported that 2 new planning applications had been received by CBC and the second part of an existing adjacent application had that morning been approved (See ** below):

(CB/17/04583/OUT - Land adj to 129A and [131 Clophill Road](#) (25 dwellings). Layout amended with an increased minimum 20m buffer zone from Maulden Wood and a new hedge/trees on the western boundary. MPC has objected on the same grounds.

** Also noted that Application CB/17/00981/OUT for 21 dwellings on the adjacent field has now received approval from CBC. The cumulative effect of both applications should be considered.

Quoting from Cllr Paul Downing’s email that SB read out to the meeting:

“It was understandable, though still disappointing, that the planning decision today (Clophill Road) went against Maulden and I have in my inbox this afternoon another planning Application No: CB/18/01385/OUT for Land adjacent to Sandbourne, 24 Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedford, MK45 2AA which is an Outline Application for the development of up to 42 dwellings...”

- (iv) SB reiterated that MNP’s AGM is on 30th May, and additional volunteers would be welcomed at any time. A leader is still needed for the Business/Local Economy Working Group - from anyone who has a local business, but anyone with an interest in any of the key elements covered by the Working Groups, and able to give any time to support MNP activities, would be welcome.
[ACTION: Working Group Leaders to identify specific tasks to advertise for volunteers – taken forward]

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (28/03/18)

Last minutes agreed and signed.

[ACTION: AP/RB - Final version to be uploaded to Dropbox and posted on webpage.]

3. MATTERS ARISING

- (i) In the absence of Alan Plom and Roger Ball (the only Steering Group members present at last meeting), there were no new matters discussed.

4. VILLAGE UPDATE

4.1 Green Infrastructure Survey (GIS)

This is being progressed by Sue Raven/Greensand Trust. No specific update available.

2. Report from Maulden Parish Council Meeting

- (i) **Traffic calming** – This was touched on by the new people present who asked what was planned regarding the speeding through the village. The purchase of handheld speeding guns was mentioned and the activity of Speed Watch. Speed Watch reports directly to Beds Police. There is as yet no method of recording/reporting the peak times of speeding which would be helpful in deciding how best to remedy this problem of speeding. New Speed Indicator signs are also proposed, which can record speeds 24/7, to inform the Police.
- (ii) **Village Litter Pick** – PJ reported that 10 volunteers turned up on Sunday 4 April, in support of the ‘Great British Spring Clean’ coordinated by Cllr Yvonne Cole.
- (iii) **School capacity** – The question of the future for Maulden school was discussed. Whether it might become 2 or 3 tiered – but it was pointed out there are no plans at present for that to happen. This might change in the Autumn following further meetings involving the school head and PC. Schools are now independent from CBC. The question was raised regarding whether Maulden Lower School becomes part of an Academy and it was pointed out that if the school is over its capacity, solutions could include enlarging the school or relocating children to other schools in the area.

4.3 Latest planning applications

- (i) Cllr Allen was unable to attend, but below is the written summary which he supplied last month. This is still current, although item 1 has now progressed to approval:

1. **CB/17/04583/OUT** - Land adj to 129A and **131 Clophill Road** (25 dwellings). Layout amended with an increased minimum 20m buffer zone from Maulden Wood and a new hedge/ trees on the western boundary. MPC has objected on the same grounds. Also noted that Application CB/17/00981/OUT for 21 dwellings on the adjacent field has now received approval from CBC. The cumulative effect of both applications should be considered. **(This has now received approval)**

2. **CB/18/00435/OUT and CB/17/00305** - Old Farm, Clophill Road (up to 49 dwellings, including affordable housing). No news on date of appeal lodged on 29/10/2017 for CB/17/00305 but a revised application received for CB/18/00435/OUT attempts to overcome the reason for refusal. One “housing cluster” has been moved to create a wider gap to ‘open up the view’. Financial contribution identified too, but MPC has again objected as these changes do not overcome previous objections.

3. **CB/17/03546/OUT** – Land at Clophill Road, nr Burgoines (50 dwellings). No appeal against refusal yet received but the (Manchester-based) developer’s offer to meet to discuss new proposals was declined by MPC, Clophill PC and CBC as they felt this will not resolve their objection, based on a matter of principle in regard to development on this site. An appeal therefore expected soon.

4. **CB/17/03937/OUT** – Land South of Limbersey Lane (14 Dwellings). No further news on this application following MPC’s objection last October. No decision likely until May/June.

- (ii) For the benefit of the new people at the meeting it was explained that the emerging Local Plan for Central Bedfordshire has been submitted and should go live in 2019.

Quoting again from the email from Cllr Paul Downing, SB read out:

“Yesterday myself and (Cllr) Paul Duckett went to a briefing on the Local Plan in relation to ‘what happens next’ – the chronology. The expectation is that the Plan – if approved – will be live in 2019.

I asked the question, “so what of NHP’s”...? And it was re-iterated by senior and experienced Councillors and CBC Officers alike that the NHP is a Statutory Development Plan that runs alongside any approved Local Plan.

The NHP can:

1. ‘offer up’ area’s for ‘growth’ (ie more development where the Parish wants it)
2. suggest/demand a design standard for any new buildings – ie in keeping with ‘style’ of the village
3. protect open spaces...”

- (iii) The Maulden Neighbourhood Plan will take another 3 years to be live. meaning neither of these plans are yet in place. This means the Maulden area is still open to developers coming up with plans for approval and it seems that it is more cost effective for CBC to approve these plans even though they are not ideal, rather than oppose them and incur subsequent legal costs at any subsequent appeal - which CBC cannot afford.

SB again quoted information from Paul Downing’s email:

“The CBC Officers continue to wish to assist all Parishes involved in creation of their plans. The NHP is a Statutory Development Plan that runs alongside any approved Local Plan.”

5. WORKING GROUP UPDATES

This item was deferred in the absence of Group Leaders other than Simon.

6. PROJECT PLAN & FUNDING

- (i) The Government’s funding scheme is extended for 4 years and we will have no problem getting it again. The downside is that there is a new website and submission procedure to contend with.
[ACTION: Sarah Michael]
- (ii) MNP’s Project Plan needs to be updated before we can submit another bid for funding. This needs to be discussed and agreed by the Steering Group/Working Group Leaders. This needs a new volunteer to take this on. **[ACTION: Working Group Leaders** to propose activities requiring funding in 2018-19 and timeline. Volunteer needed to revise Project Plan.]

7. WHAT NEXT? [SUMMARY OF URGENT ACTIONS]

Minute	Outstanding Actions from Previous (March meeting) Minutes	Who
1(ii)	Communications Group to discuss use of Facebook (again) and liaise with PC.	SB
1(iv)	Identify specific tasks to advertise/involve volunteers.	WGp Leads
3(i)	Exclusion from School meeting/formation of Stakeholder Group to be raised with MPC Chair before next PC meeting (14 May).	AP/RB
3(ii)	Check if any progress on spur to Off-Road Access Link from Clophill, Flitton, etc to Flitwick + Report back to next meeting.	RB/PJ
3(iii)	Check if Mike Lake presentation and audio recording posted on website.	RB
3(iv)	Access to MNP Dropbox and FaceBook Group to be discussed by Comms WGp	SB
4.1	Request GST report and suggestions for Questions for the MNP Survey	RB
4.2(iii)	Discuss impasse over liaison with MPC Chair, prior to next PC meeting (14 May)	AP/RB
6(iii)	Identify activities requiring funding in 2018-19, produce timelines and revise Plan.	WGpLeads
6(iv)	Produce Update article for Parish Magazine and post on the website.	AP/RB
6(v)	Need to be involved/informed about School and PC Stakeholder Group.	RB/AP/PJ

8(i)	To develop Policy to comply with GDPR for discussion at the next meeting.	AP/SB
Actions arising from April meeting		
2	Revised final minutes to be filed in Dropbox and posted on our webpage.	AP/RB
6(i)	To prepare and submit funding bid for 2018-19.	SM
6(ii)	To propose activities requiring funding in 2018-19 and timeline. Volunteer needed to revise Project Plan.	WGp Leaders
8(i)	To finalise Privacy Policy to comply with GDPR - to present to AGM.	AP/SB

8. AOB / Date of next meeting

- (i) **Data Protection** – SB outlined the DPP and stated that we need to have everything in place by the deadline 28th May. We have only collected individual’s email addresses for the purposes of developing and sharing information on the Neighbourhood Plan, and we do not share this information with other organisations for marketing purposes. We are still required to set up a system to enable people to ‘opt in’ to receiving email communication and also have the facility to ‘opt out’.
[**ACTION: AP/SB** still to discuss how to progress this for discussion at the next meeting.]
- (ii) In answer to the Comms Group action, SB said that he did not think it a good idea to set up yet another Maulden Facebook Group.
- (iii) **Next meeting** - Wednesday 30th May at 8pm, Upstairs in The George, as usual. Anyone with an interest in development and planning in Maulden are welcome to attend

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 9.15 pm.