

***‘protecting and improving the quality of life***

***for all Bayston Hill residents’***

**Clerk to the Council/RFO: Emma Kay**

**Chairman: Cllr Mrs Teresa Lewis**  **A Quality Council**

**MINUTES OF VILLAGE SUMMIT/PARISH PLAN MEETING held on Wednesday 11 February 2015 at the Youth and Community Building**

**7.30 – 8.35 pm**

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| **Present**: |  |
| **Name** | **Organisation (if applicable)** |
| Cllr Mrs Teresa Lewis (Chairman) | Bayston Hill Parish Council |
| Cllr Max Ball | Bayston Hill Parish Council |
| Cllr Ted Clarke | Shropshire Council/Bayston Hill Parish Council |
| Mark Combes | Severn Partnership |
| Anne Cousins | Locum Clerk, Bayston Hill Parish Council |
| Judy Crabb | Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) |
| David Fairclough | Community Enablement Officer, Shropshire Council |
| Chris Fryer | Bayston Hill Scouts |
| Janet Hughes | Neighbourhood Watch |
| Cllr Fred Jones | Bayston Hill Parish Council |
| Cllr Keith Keel | Bayston Hill Parish Council |
| Dave Kibbler | Bayston Hill Crown Green Bowling Club |
| Janet Phillips | Hillside Nursery |
| David Preston | Village Association |
| Erica Staples |  |
| Peter Staples |  |
| Cllr Mrs Teri Trickett | Bayston Hill Parish Council |
| Bill Warr | Memorial Hall Committee |
| Laura Whitmarsh | Christ Church |
| Maurice Wright | Methodist Church |

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|  |  | **ACTION** |
| 1. | **Welcome** |  |
|  | Cllr Mrs Teresa Lewis, Chairman of Bayston Hill Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. |  |
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| 2. | **Parish Plan Explanation** |  |
|  | Cllr Mrs Lewis explained a Parish Plan set out the community’s aspirations for the area. The Bayston Hill Parish Plan had first been completed in 2006 and was reviewed in 2010, but Mrs Lewis was keen to have a fresh look and not simply repeat the last plan. She also explained the Parish Council had recently formed a sub-committee to look at the Parish Plan and this group had met once. At that meeting, a decision had been taken to do a Parish Plan, rather than a Neighbourhood Plan, which it was felt would require too much funding. |  |
|  |  | **ACTION** |
| 3. | **Role of Community** |  |
|  | Cllr Lewis said she hoped today’s meeting would give a broad perspective. It was important the Parish Plan was not led by the Parish Council, but was something that all sections of the community were involved in. It was hoped that in due course appointments would be made to key posts, such as chairman, secretary and treasurer.  David Fairclough, Shropshire Council, suggested that housing and planning were key themes in most Parish Plans. This led to discussion that the current Parish Plan did not appear to carry any weight in planning decisions at the moment. David Fairclough said that Shropshire Council normally included Parish Plans within their main planning policy documents (SAMDev) but admitted there were currently national planning issues which had had a negative impact on planning at the present time. It was hoped this would be resolved soon. Judy Crabb, CPRE, said that Parish Plans carried more weight if they were able to demonstrate considerable community consultation and input. |  |
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| 4. | **Questionnaire** |  |
|  | In previous Parish Plans, a questionnaire had been delivered to every household in Bayston Hill and the response rate had been 49%. Although this was very high, Cllr Mrs Lewis said she was keen to increase the response rate even further.  There was discussion about the size of the questionnaire, with some people thinking that a smaller questionnaire would be better. On the other hand, it was agreed there was no point reducing the size to such an extent the results were not meaningful.  It was suggested that it might be necessary to use experts to make sure the job was done properly. Judy Crabb, CPRE, offered assistance from her organisation.  It was felt that young people were an important section of the population. Judy Crabb explained she was working with the Parish Council and Oakmeadow School on a series of events with Year 6 children. It was agreed it also important to involve young people directly in the questionnaire and to make sure all age groups were covered. | **Judy Crabb, CPRE** |
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| 5. | **Themes** |  |
|  | Suggestions made included:  Community  Sports  Health  The Parade  Housing and planning  Law and security  It was pointed out that The Parade, for example, was in private ownership. It was suggested, however, that it was important for the plan to bring everything together and involve all sections of the Bayston Hill community, including local businesses.  It was suggested it was important to look at the identity of Bayston Hill as a way of justifying the boundaries of the village. Even though there may be many different views within Bayston Hill, the fact that it was seen as a village must mean something and it was important to define what this was.  Another speaker said it was important the plan was not limited to interest groups within the village, but involved everyone. Cllr Keel felt it was important for the Parish Council to take ownership and ensure this did not happen.  In the ensuing discussion, one person said he was here because of a planning application to build outside the development boundary and said it was important that the Parish Plan was able to back up the community’s objections to such plans.  There was discussion about communication and how best to engage with residents. This was recognised as being a big undertaking which would need to be co-ordinated by a group of people.  With regard to young people, Laura Whitmarsh introduced herself as a youth worker with Christ Church. She said most young people just wanted a safe place to go where they were not judged by others. The improvements to the skate park and BMX track were welcomed, but there was recognition that not all young people were interested in those facilities. Youth clubs needed adult volunteers and these were not always forthcoming. David Preston pointed out there was no longer any youth service from Shropshire Council and Bayston Hill’s response to this was one thing which the Parish Plan could look at.  There was discussion about how to do the questionnaire and that there was a need to pick the questions carefully. David Fairclough, Shropshire Council, suggested giving an incentive to encourage the return of questionnaires, e.g. a £25 prize. He also said there could be a questionnaire aimed specifically at young people, or young people could be co-opted on to the steering group. Laura Whitmarsh suggested it would be better to talk directly to young people, rather than co-opt them on to a group, and said this was something she could do. | **ACTION**  **Laura Whitmarsh, Christ Church** |

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| 6. | **Next steps in the Process** |  |
|  | Cllr Mrs Lewis asked how many people would be willing to join a steering group. She suggested having another meeting in mid-March. It was suggested different tasks could then be allocated to members of the steering group. Another suggestion was to have three topics and three meeting dates and then people could choose which ones they wished to attend.  David Fairclough offered to circulate a constitution to everyone before the next meeting.  After discussion, it was agreed the date of the next meeting would be **Wednesday 18 March, 7.30 p.m. at the Youth and Community Building.** | **David Fairclough, Shropshire Council** |