

Membury Parish council Neighbourhood Plan

MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 1ST OCTOBER, 2014 AT THE MEETING PLACE AT 4.00 P.M.

Present: Alex, Beryl, Jason, Jeremy, John, Mark, Samantha & Nick

1. Apologies for Absence: Heather

2. Exhibition

The Hall has been booked for Friday 24th October from 1.00pm 'til 7.30pm and Saturday 25th from 9.00am 'til 1.00pm.

Jeremy has agreed that we can use his display panels and we are therefore not restricted to using the NP Parishes communal boards.

Results from the survey to be displayed on boards. A discussion held on how we present our thoughts and interpretation of these results. It was agreed that we should take the line "We think this should be the policy, do you agree?"

A large amount of the feedback re-confirmed the Village Design Statement and this should form the basis of our Plan. Some additional clauses would have to be added - such as increasing the number of trees and the use of solar panels etc.

Clarification and questions for the display panels are in *italic*

3. Natural Environment

Discussion on the policy we take regarding hedgerows, banks, and orchards. It was agreed that we take the following line regarding trees:-

The questionnaire has shown that there is a desire for an increase in the number of trees.

Would you be prepared to help purchase community woodland?

Would you favour a stipulation that any new build HAS to include planting of new trees?

Street Lighting - Villagers have re-affirmed that we wish to preserve dark skies and NOT have street lights.

Footpaths

There was considerable discussion on this topic e.g. who should take ownership; County Council, the Parish Council or voluntary workers. It was agreed that we say:-

The community values it's public rights of way and consider that they should continue to be maintained.

The position of footpath warden be retained and receive the full support of the Parish Council and the community."

Protection of Hedge Banks and Hedges.

As a result of comments in the questionnaire regarding damage by heavy vehicles driven irresponsibly we should pursue ways of protecting our roadside banks and hedges by all means available to us.

There was strong feelings from the farming community that they were not respected and from the general public that some farmers were irresponsible in the way they used the lanes and bridleways.

How can we educate both sides to be considerate of each other and result in the maintaining of healthy banks?

Lengthsman

There was a high percentage of people concerned about drainage, floods and land management.

Are we prepared to service the cost of this public drainage work through our parish council tax?

Should we ask Devon County Council to contribute to the cost of this service if we organise it within the parish council tax?"

Could we ask the Council to reorganise their system so that a group of 4 or 5 parishes had their dedicated lengthsman who also could temporarily repair potholes?

4. Energy & Low Carbon

See trees above.

The majority of respondents agreed that solar panels should be allowed on farm buildings and houses. About half also thought hot water tubes on houses and hydro power generation should be considered. After some discussion it was agreed that Nick check to see if an independent hydro power and/or bio-gas feasibility survey could be charged to our project funds.

5. Topics for discussion at the Next Meeting: Transport and Accessibility
Economy and Employment

5. Time, Date and Place of Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 8th October, 2014 at The Meeting Place as 4.00 p.m.