

Garforth Neighbourhood Planning Forum

1st Post AGM Steering Group Meeting 16th October 2014

Miners' Welfare Hall

Minutes

Present: David Pitchfork, John Blake, Emma Grunwell, Alan Tynan, Jacqueline & Bernard Simpson, Sue McQuire, Liz Crossland, Jane-Anne Parsons, Robin Best, Josie Andrews, David Leroy, James Langley, Paul Roberts, Rob Utley

1.Apologies: Chris Coyle(unable to make Thursdays), Dave Clark, Councillor Mark Dobson, Jess Ferguson

2.Minutes of Previous Meeting: These were the minutes of the last pre-AGM Steering Group meeting on 2nd September 2014 which were formally adopted by the pre-AGM Steering Group.

3.Matters Arising: BS brought up the matter that we had recently been informed by Ian McKay that our Designation had not yet been approved due to Councillor Gruen wishing for more information about local businesses. AT explained and gave the background for the benefit of the new members. JS had been in contact with J-AP who had brought 75 business addresses with 12 completed forms. *AT to send an e-mail to Ian McKay asking for the depth of information required.* RB asked if our new LCC contact, Steve Wilkinson, could be invited to our next meeting. This was agreed. EG asked if the Trade Association could report to the Group as a body without forming a separate sub-group? *J-AP agreed to follow this up through a lady called Christine Thomas.*

4.Explanation & Overview of Group to Date: AT explained that the Localism Act brought the Group into being, that we were a bit behind others and that we now had to produce a Neighbourhood Plan which would have to be put to a local referendum in order to be accepted. This should give the Forum 'teeth' and parity with Parish Councils. Garforth people need to have a say in where and

what type of housing units are built in Garforth. AT went on to explain Stage 2 after designation and the funding that might be available. PR asked which sub-Groups already exist and was told that only the Flood and Litter Groups already existed and would be reporting to the Forum.

5.Meet & Greet: All present introduced themselves, gave their addresses and how long they had lived in Garforth. Each one indicated why they were interested in being in the Group, what previous local pressure groups or community bodies they belonged or were connected to and what they thought they could bring to the Forum. There was feeling that while Garforth had much for which to thank current and recent Councillors and our previous MP, Colin Burgon, we had been badly served by LCC. This was illustrated by DL who remembered that in 1954 the Urban District Council had stated that there should be no further development in Garforth until the infrastructure had been upgraded. Plans were drawn up but this all stopped when we joined LCC.

JS announced that she and BS were stepping down from the Committee due to pressures of commitment to the Flood Support Group following the recent extensive flooding in Garforth.

6.Size of Group: With JS & BS stepping down the Group now consists of the thirteen present in the room, three people who had sent apologies and two who had not responded to the invitation. This is a potential total of 18*and will have to be addressed by the Group.

7.Elections: The Meeting was asked for nominations for officers. David Leroy indicated that he was willing to stand as Chair so long as it was realised that he may not be able to attend every meeting. JS nominated Dave Clark as Vice Chair**, James Langley indicated that the local Conservative Group Committee usually had two Vice Chairs and offered himself as a second Vice Chair. Rob Utley offered his services as Treasurer and Sue McQuire offered to be Secretary. All offers were accepted. DP invited the Group to thank JS for her services through to Designation.

8.Steering Group Remit : Item 8 was adjourned as time was running out and people had other commitments.

9.Sub Groups: It was decided to call a meeting of all people who had expressed an interest in the subgroups plus the Steering Group so that meeting dates, venues, composition and general procedure could be agreed upon. **DL offered to arrange this.***** SM & LC expressed concern that people had not yet been given any indication as to what was happening. EG said that the priority was to hold an all inclusive meeting to rationalise the subgroups as quite a lot of people had signed up for multiple groups which would not really be feasible.

10.AOB: Aberford Parish Council wished to be invited to our next meeting. This was agreed.

Chris Coyle, who runs the website, had expressed concern that there was a wish to explore the possibility of setting up a Parish Council in Garforth and that this was not being addressed by any of the subgroups. This was met with a general concern that such a route would risk compromising the forming of a Neighbourhood Plan and was not something that the group wished to involve themselves with at this stage. However if Mr Coyle wished to set up and run such a group himself as an independent venture then that was a matter for him.

At this point JS & BS had to leave the meeting and the minutes were completed by SM.

Additional minutes

AOB

AT gave update on grant expenditure and further grant applications for funding.

Essentially funding comes from two sources

- 1. Direct appeal? Fund in which Locality pay consultants fees direct. This is available for both stage 1 and 2. Having completed stage 1 without needing funding we now need to apply for funding for consultancy fees to help the Forum achieve stage 2. However we need the relevant 'designation' documentation*

before we can apply, hopefully this is imminent as funding may change after April 15.

- 2. A maximum grant of up to £7,000 is available from Locality to meet expenses. To date £1,116 has been spent on publicity. At present this money is held in a Leeds City Council Garforth Forum account until we have established our own account.*

Action DP

AT has applied for a further £1805 from the direct appeal fund to employ a consultant for a total of three days @ £50 an hour. This consultant will give advice on achieving stage 2.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

The starred matters below were not mentioned/completed at the meeting but are referred to outside the minutes.

*The Constitution stipulates a maximum of 11 and so the Group size needs to be reduced to that number or the Constitution amended to whatever number the Group feels appropriate.

**Dave Clark accepted the nomination for Vice Chair. Since there are now two, the retiring, acting secretary respectfully suggests the offices of Senior (DC) and Junior (JL) Vice Chairs. This may need to be addressed in the Constitution.

*****This meeting has been arranged for Thursday 30th October for 7pm in the Trench Room(upstairs) at the Miners' Welfare Hall.**

****Item 11 on the agenda appears not to have been covered. Steering Group meetings have been agreed for the third Thursday of the month so the next **Steering Group Meeting will be on Thursday 20th November at 7pm in the Isabella Room at the Miners' Welfare Hall.**

The retiring secretary has sent e-mails to Aberford Parish Council and Steve Wilkinson (via Ian MacKay) inviting them to the next Steering Group meeting as agreed at the meeting on the 16th October. They have been asked to respond to the new secretary.

Lilac coloured items are for action before the next meeting.