

Welland Plan Neighbourhood Forum (“the Forum”)

Minutes of Meeting held 13th April 2023 at The Royalist, Western Avenue, MH

1. Attendees: Susan Garon (SG) **Chair**, Roy Saint (RS) **Vice Chair**, Linda Pentland (LP) **Secretary**, Alan Good (AG), Alistair Helm (AH), Nicola Webber (NH), Julian Webber (JW), Garry Davies (GD), David Notter (DN), Martin King (MK), Christine Barratt (CB), Tim Clayden (TC), Bruce Durham (BD), Bob Bellm (BB), Ann Morris (AM), Darren Woodiwiss (DW), Heli Byrne (apologies if this is incorrect spelling) (HB), Freddie Byrne (FB), Tracey Foster (TF), Andrea Bradley (AB)
2. Apologies: Susan Hitchman, Julie Simpson, Gillian Baverstock, Mark Baverstock, Simon Hobbs
3. **SG** gave a brief introduction for the benefit of new people then all introduced themselves briefly, stating their main area of interest.
4. The current appointments of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary were confirmed. **GD** confirmed that he is happy to take on part of the Treasurer role but not overall responsibility for statutory filings and reporting. **LP** confirmed that she is happy to take on that part of the Treasurer role, but if this happens someone else will need to step in as Secretary. In essence we are still looking for either a Treasurer or a Secretary, as well as a Membership Secretary.
5. Comments were invited on the proposed constitution. **CB** commented that an indefinite term for the Chair may not be a good idea. **SG** confirmed this had already been addressed. Now all management positions are to be voted on every 12 months, and notice of 3 months ideally given when someone leaves a position. An alternative of the Chair not being able to serve more than 5 years was proposed but voted down. Other than a minor wording change to remove the word “parish” from page 1 and replace it with “ward” the constitution was then agreed and adopted.
Action – SG to contact Matt Bills HDC to get the Forum designated.
6. **RS** explained the potential sub groups identified from the post it notes exercise, aligned broadly with the sub groups at Little Bowden NF. People asked to sign up to those which they would like to join. Each group to then work together to develop that aspect of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). WhatsApp groups to be set up. **SG** suggested that the groups look at other NP documents online to get some ideas. **RS** circulated proposed terms of reference.
Groups are:

Social and Community (2 participants so far)
Development and Planning (no participants so far)
Transport (5 participants so far, **BB** willing to lead)
Environment (5 participants so far, **BD** willing to lead)

Action: Each Group Lead to set up WhatsApp group and start the ball rolling

7. AOB

Communication – **CB** raised concern about engagement of the whole community in putting together the plan rather than presenting a fait accompli at a later stage.

Multiple channels of communication discussed, including FB and other social media, face to face, radio, local media, leafleting and more. Agreed as key to finding the voices of everyone in the ward.

Concern raised about balancing the need for this with the desire to create and adopt the NP as quickly as possible. No clear path yet found as to how this would be achieved.

Harborough Town Hub (HTH) role as facilitator of communications discussed, probably for all 5 Forums.

Action – LP to talk to Simon Hobbs to explore this further and feedback.

Harborough District Council (HDC) - NW asked whether HDC on board with the NF's. **BD** explained how the process began and that yes they are on board.

Timescale for developing the plan – **SG** keen to keep the pace of development up and has in mind a potential deadline of September 2023 to work towards. This may be subject to the time constraints imposed by the necessity to demonstrate engagement with the whole community as discussed earlier. Reiterated need to discuss with HTH.

8. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 11th May 2023 5.30 – 7 at The Royalist.