

Bures Neighbourhood Plan Group Meeting
7.30 Wednesday 2nd August 2023

Present: Robin Hamilton, Richard Adams, Ken McAndrew, Nigel Cowlin, Richard Shackell, Ken Jackson, Gill Jackson, Jan Stobart

1. Apologies for absence Sandra Scott, Simon ten Brinke Jackson

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2023 agreed by email and circulated

3. Engaging a consultant

RH had contacted Eric Taylor of Diss regarding their work with CPP. CCP were reported to be very helpful. They worked well with the Steering group and acted on the SG's wishes. CCP never gave the impression of being too busy to listen and work together.

GJ had contacted Alex Stevenson of Coggeshall NP Steering Group. (Not reported in the meeting - Coggeshall began work on their plan in 2015. They engaged DAC and David Coleman was the professional who worked with their team. Alex recommended David unreservedly.)

Ian Poole of Places4people emailed to let the group know that, due to their workload, they would not be submitting a quote and that they wished Bures well in completing their plan.

Following the meeting on 3rd July SS circulated a scoring sheet to use when assessing the responses from consultants. Seven members of the group had assessed using this method. All seven were in support of engaging CCP. Discussion took place as to the reasons for the scores. These included the CCP response being more specifically linked to the information supplied by the Bures team and the cost of DAC being significantly higher. DAC being a bigger company work all over the country and on jobs other than Neighbourhood Planning.

Due to seven votes going to CCP the references were not used in the decision making.

Action: GJ to email Louise Cornell to request a t/c or Zoom meeting with RH and GJ on Friday 4th August

4. Funding update

The resumption of funding for Neighbourhood Planning was announced by Locality on 25th July.

It was agreed that an application would be made to cover the amount quoted by CCP and an additional amount for the meetings and printing. The total may be limited by Locality.

Action: GJ to complete form and liaise with Jenny Wright re submission

5. Request to Braintree DC regarding Article 4 directions to prevent plotlands development off Colchester Road

It was reported that the Webber family had sold their land in Bures to Stratland with effect of 1st Oct. This being the date of the end of the agricultural tenancy agreement. Stratland have

engaged two auctioneers to sell the land in plots. There is a serious danger of adverse changes to the landscape of this type of land ownership. Braintree District Council has used Article 4 direction to limit permitted rights elsewhere in the district. Bures Hamlet Parish Council has contacted David Holland, the Braintree District Councillor who will be reporting back on his contact with the Head of Planning. Bures St Mary Parish Council has written asking BDC to implement Article 4 direction in the case of the land off Colchester Road, Bures.

It was agreed that the NP team send representation to BDC asking that their power to use Article 4 be put in place.

Action: NC to advise on wording of letter to BDC. GJ to send to Emma Goodings and Josie Falco at BDC.

6. Changes to the Draft

Climate change - Changes to the draft to include the climate change issues are still to be made. This will be done prior to the latest draft being sent to CCP.

Green spaces – Discussion took place on the addition of the water meadow and the fields containing Bronze Age ring ditches to the green spaces in the plan. The NPPF will be used to agree the justification. Clarification regarding the inclusion of Jubilee Grove as a green space on the annual Bures Hamlet return was requested.

(Not covered in the meeting but requested by the Parish Rights of Way Officer – include suggested additional paths Little Cornard to Bures as included in the LC NP)

Action: RH and RA to meet to agree the inclusion of the CC issues in the draft plan. RA and NC GJ to send latest draft of the Bures NP to Louise Cornell as soon as the above have been completed. GJ to ask Jenny Wright to add Louise Cornell to the Dropbox.

7. Public engagement

Discussion took place on the use of a Focus Group. The make up of such a group was not resolved. It was concluded that advice from CCP be sought.

The next whole village leaflet drop will be due shortly. This will include details of the consultant and of the forthcoming Regulation 14 consultation.

Parish Magazine – It was agreed that ½ a page monthly would be beneficial.

The meeting felt that, as suggested by the visitors from Newton in July, new blood would be welcome at this point. JS suggested asking for volunteers for particular tasks.

Action: Ask CCP re Focus group following their official engagement. RA to draft and circulate a piece for the September Bures Magazine. JS to send list of tasks to offer to potential newcomers to the group.

8. Dates of next meetings

Early September dependent on CCP.