

Minutes of the Meeting Wednesday, 19th April 2017

Present: Eric Benton, Hilary & Chris Ashby, Avril & Peter Moon, Roger Mant, Barry Waldock, Caroline Brady-Watts, Tom and Annette Walkinshaw, Dave Stone, Stuart Thomson, Dean Cullingham.

Apologies: Paul Buckley, Linda Hiscott, Mark Brooks, Lynda Oliver, Maralyn Napier, James Staniforth, Elaine Holloway, Jan Bown, Sue Mant.

Introduction of new members to the committee.

Discussed how well we thought the open day had gone and brought those not present on the day up to date on what was given out and said on the day.

For the new members present Eric gave the background of what the Neighbourhood Plan Committee is about.

Plans have to be accepted by the majority of the village.

Eric thought that the new developments proposed in the plan could take more dwellings than are proposed at present.

Vivien said she had been giving her opinion on the day which was a 10% increase of all North Bedfordshire villages.

Parish Council objects to the fact that we were put into a Key Service Centre without consultation.

The Natural Burial ground waiting on a decision.

The 250 houses – planning application for Duck End Lane has gone in.

The object of the Committee and Parish Council is to reduce the number of houses proposed by Beds Borough Council.

The following arguments are the main ones that can be used:

Important that we stress everyone must write in individually and give a proposal on an alternative for the Borough on where they can build the number of dwellings they need to build if they reduce the number built in Wilstead. To do this we need to mobilise everyone in the village, but we can't address the argument until we understand what the argument is. To this end the Council to meet with planners.

Need to keep the boundaries and a clear gap between Wixams and Wilstead.

Need to understand the area prone to flooding and how being on a flood plain can be used (Mary and Annette to investigate).

Understanding the traffic situation. This especially means the traffic flow of Cotton End Road (Avril and Dave to do survey)

Need to better understand the schooling position. How many of the present pupils attending actually live out of the village (Vivien to speak to Headmaster).

Involve Gallaghers because large scale development in Wilstead would be a detrimental to their plans for Wixams. (Eric to speak to them).

The effect of 500 houses on the village, to say how 500 houses would affect the feeling of the village which is very important.

Our way forward:

Have another drop in in conjunction with the Parish Council proposed date Wednesday, 3rd May (Vivien to book)

Decided to do a leaflet drop to update villagers on everything. Eric to write and Vivien to add photo, e-mail it to Hilary and Chris who will arrange printing. The leaflets to be delivered as soon as possible before the 3rd May. Meeting proposed on Wednesday, 26th May at 7.30 to give out leaflets to people able to deliver them.

Decided to try and arrange for the local paper involved for the next drop in.