

Forrabury and Minster Parish Council

Tuesday 8th June 2021 at 1800hrs
Community and Recreation Centre, Boscastle

In attendance:

Present: Cllr Bridges, Cllr Bright, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Edwards-Symons, Cllr Ferrett, Cllr Hockin, Cllr Potter, Cllr Rodda, Cllr Simmonds, Cllr Yates

There were 7 members of the public present.

The Chairman advised all participants that the meeting was being audio recorded. No other person declared an intention to record the meeting and no person wished to opt out of any recording.

04.01 Apologies:

None. The Clerk to the Council was absent due to illness. Cllr Yates was instructed to minute the meeting.

04.02 Declarations of interest: None

04.03 Public participation:

A member of the public submitted a written narrative that was read from and wished for the document to be attached to the public record. The narrative discussed PCs responsibility to the whole parish population, the NDP being a subcommittee of the FMPC and the steering group spending over 2000 hours on the NDP. The social media response regarding The Rectory consequently caused NDP committee members to resign along with the lack of respect and support from FMPC.

A member of the public highlighted how the wording regarding the relocation of The Rectory being an overriding feature of the report and had caused much upset. The member of the public highlighted how the language used did not reflect an accurate circumstance of the land. The parishioner queried how the points raised qualified formal complaints made against them and although documented, members of the NDP committee did not liaise as instructed before publication. Cllr Bridges responded that following the negative feedback and hostility, three of the committee resigned followed by the chairperson. The VCA documents is for discussion and consultation and if the process restarted, the VCA documents can be amended.

A member of the public stated that the VCA is a draft third party document.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1813hrs.

04.04 Neighbourhood Development Plan:

Future of the NDP

Cllr Bridges offered a presentation as the former project manager of the NDP Committee and included a reminder of what an NDP can achieve. It was reported that there were a number of resignations following negative feedback online from members of the public and from Cllrs. There was not a Committee in place any longer but the workgroups awaited instruction if the process restarted. A timeline showed the stage that the NDP was at (stage 1, getting established and data gathering) was nearing completion at the point the NDP was suspended.

Cllr Bridges listed what has been achieved by the Committee, an outline document ready for population, with Committee funds held of £506. A Localities Grant Application 2021/2022 was approved for £3006 which includes pre submission consultancy but needs to be accepted before 10th June 2021. Assets and subscriptions obtained and used by the Committee are currently active: 32 stamps, mobile phone SIM card £28.59, Zoom Licence (expires 27th July 2021) and Survey Monkey Licence (expires 17th February 2022). The website is up to date but the social media is suspended as it was in Cllr Bridges personal name. Cllr Edward-Symons asked if all the feedback has been collated and sent to Collette Beckham. Cllr Bridges confirmed. Cllr Bright highlighted how many members of the public did not know what Survey Monkey was and how to interact with the platform and expressed how much positive work has been conducted by the Committee but not all has been publicised to the parish.

Cllr Bridges gave a list of tasks and a timeline on what needs to happen to move the project forward. There were only 5 to 6 active people on the Committee working at any one time. The workgroups are on standby and were close to producing their final reports for the Committee to consider. Cllr Bridges suggested a recovery path including a statement to the public about position of FMPC and the NDP along with identifying a new chairperson and Committee. Cllr Bridges stressed the need for regaining public trust in the process. Cllr Simmonds indicated that the grant needs to be confirmed by 10th June before it would be lost. Funds would sit in FMPC account and returned if necessary.

Cllr Potter questioned how the resignation of Committee allows for progress forward as so much work had been conducted. Cllr Bridges hoped that some of the Committee may return. Cllr Potter queried if areas of concern could be removed or revised. Cllr Bridges responded to confirm that it would be the case as it was a discussion document. Cllr Bright expressed how the purpose of the VCA document was not clear to the parish. Cllr Simmonds spoke to highlight how it was the responsibility of FMPC to own the NDP process.

Cllr Edward-Symons expressed how the feedback from the consultant was that the FMPC should not discuss the content of VCA document yet FMPC is being criticised on a lack of comment. Cllr Edward-Symons highlighted that the consultant had only received the online survey responses but other feedback had not been handed over. Cllr Bridges offered clarification that the online feedback had been handed over. Cllr Simmonds stated that feedback other than survey output had been collated and would be sent. Cllr Bright sought clarification that the VCA document was signed off as complete. Cllr Bridges and Cllr Simmonds stated that these were draft only. Cllr Edward-Symons stated that Cllrs had a hard task of reading them and felt that the public would experience the same. Cllr Edward-Symons expressed that other NDPs had suspended their work in light of COVID-19 as they believed face to face consultation is a better tool. Cllr Edward-Symons highlighted that the VCAs were not part of the survey and that the planning guidelines sat separately.

Cllr Hockin questioned whether individuals could submit multiple surveys. Cllr Bridges clarified that only one IP address could submit a response. Cllr Yates pressed for clarification as a member of the public highlighted they had been instructed to submit an additional survey but Cllr Bridges confirmed the original survey had been deleted.

Cllr Edward-Symonds read a prepared narrative and highlighted how reputations had been damaged and parishioners need to be better informed. Cllr Edward-Symonds noted the terms of reference and FMPC opportunities to vote on item connected with the work of the Committee along with receiving regular updates. However, since June 2020, FMPC were updated briefly each month on Zoom and not invited for opinions and voting. Cllr Edward-Symonds highlighted how the membership is not a consistent and stable cross community representation. Cllr Edward-Symonds did not fully understand the reasons of the recent resignations and noted that the bulk of the work from the workgroups has yet to be seen. Cllr Edward-Symonds highlighted the VCA has had significant changes as evidenced in their minutes without the prior knowledge of the consultant. Cllr Edward-Symonds expressed that a parishioner had given feedback regarding NDP but has been harassed thereafter.

Cllr Simmonds queried the changes made to the VCAs and was not aware of any influence. Cllr Simmonds believed there was a significant lack of engagement FMPC despite running the process on behalf of the Council as part of the Committee. Cllr Simmonds expressed how a response regarding the VCAs from the Chairperson of the Boscastle Chamber of Trade and Commerce (BCTC), Ross Yates, discussed the value for money and the content of the VCAs needing to be reviewed. Cllr Simmonds subsequently resigned from the NDP committee due to health reasons.

Cllr Edward-Symonds wanted clarification on the alterations made to the VCAs, without the consultant knowing, as PDF documents were altered to edited documents. Cllr Bridges explained that the HNA document was changed with minor changes the consultant. Cllr Simmonds explained that cosmetic changes were made to make the documents consistent. Cllr Edward-Symonds highlighted the integrity of document being the consultant's document independent of the Committee.

Cllr Yates raised concerns over the resignations of the Committee. Cllr Yates, in his capacity as a parishioner but making referencing to the business area and copied in the BCTC Secretary, highlighted how the VCAs did not give a deeper narrative than other published assessments. Cllr Yates highlighted that engagement and consultation has not been achieved and there are concerning examples of the Committee not being open to feedback.

Cllr Hockin expressed members of the public can give feedback to Cllrs and the Committee. Cllr Hockin asked if there were Cllrs willing to consider joining the Committee. Cllrs Bright, Potter and Edward-Symonds expressed an interest and Cllr Simmonds offered support if called upon by a new Committee. Cllr Yates discussed the prospect of changing the terms of reference if the Committee is restarted to make the process more intricate with FMPC.

Cllr Hockin proposed, seconded by Cllr Potter and it was RESOLVED that FMPC continue with the NDP process. 9 in favour, 1 against, carried.

Cllr Potter proposed, seconded by Cllr Bridges and RESOLVED that FMPC confirm the grant application of £3006 before 10th June. 9 in favour, 1 against, carried. Cllr Simmonds as their contact would liaise with the Clerk to get this actioned before the deadline.

Cllr Hockin did not think that FMPC were at a stage of appointing a Committee. Cllr Bridges proposed, seconded by Cllr Bright and RESOLVED that FMPC issue a statement expressing that FMPC are looking forward progress and support a NDP but are looking for community help. If members of the public wish help, please liaise with the Clerk or call the helpline number. 9 in favour, 1 against, carried.

Cllr Potter expressed the problems of social media threads and suggested future posts turn off comments. Cllr Potter confirmed that the thread was deleted after they had two reports of inciting hate and abusive behaviour.

Cllr Simmonds planned to hand over the NDP mobile phone to Cllr Bridges.

Cllr Bridges proposed, seconded by Cllr Bright and RESOLVED that the FMPC statement will be prepared for issue in the upcoming Boscastle Blowhole. 9 in favour, 1 against, carried.

04.05 Agenda items for next meeting: Deferred.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 10th June at 7:00pm.

The chairman closed the meeting at 1952hrs.