



# Vision Group for Sidmouth

for the sustainable development of town and valley

## Minutes - VGS Coordination Meeting and Annual General Meeting 30 May 2018, 7pm at Leigh Browne Room

Present: Jenny Alexander, Dave Bramley, Miriam Brown, Rita Hedley, Jean Twibell, Jeremy Woodward, Bob Miles, Peter Murphy, Stephen Pemberton, John Twibell, Mary Walden-Till, Roger Till

Apologies: Dave Alexander, Jon Ball, Liz Bramley, Robert Crick, Graham Cooper, Diana East, Graham Elsom, Kerry Gibbons, Jill Gray, Graham Hutchinson, Trevor Jones, Louise Woolley

### 1. Short report/s on the past year

- The Science Festival is making significant demands on several committee members
- SidEnergy: working on solar panels in town - updates in the newsletter from Graham Hutchinson separately
- Overall, the Vision Group has very successfully started some major events in town over the past few years, which have now been spun off as separate entities: the Science Festival and the Food Festival and SidEnergy are examples.
- The Community Market and the Food Festival are now managed and owned by Kennaway House
- Jeremy informed the meeting that the Futures Forum and Sustainable Sidmouth exist currently as a blog only, there having been no meetings this past year
- Jeremy and Peter also briefed us a bit on the evening's meeting in Sidford re. the 'business park' proposal, as they arrived directly from the meeting

### 2. Treasurer's report - Jean T

- the last balance of the VGS was approximately £3k
- apart from outstanding smallish bills to Kennaway House and the Dissenters for meeting room hires we had no other sums owing
- the plastics week cost the VGS approximately £166 net
- the monthly income from the Community market has obviously ceased since since Kennaway House took over the running of the market

- the food festivals have also been handed over to Kennaway as well
- the future outgoings comprise the public liability insurance renewable annually and small expenditures for the running of the website
- In short, the task of the future Treasurer will be very light
- Jean T, the treasurer also stated she would be standing down

### 3. The future of VGS - discuss and decide the way forward

- we agreed that it would be very sad if the VGS did cease to exist as the current officers are all resigning at this meeting
- however, no one new has come forward for any of the roles now being vacated
- the key issue is that the Neighbourhood Plan will become effective towards the end of the year will result in potential community actions, which VGS would be ideally placed to engage with and which the community can influence
- The Neighbourhood plan covers various issues which we as the community can influence
- The Town Council will own the implementation of any Neighbourhood Plan actions and will drive them.
- Many people are looking for leadership and new energy to fresh We agreed that a think tank style group could usefully contribute to fresh initiatives
- Mary suggested that Publicity could easily be absorbed into the website work she does, with local help re. posters and other physical publicity
- Stephen P commented on the general 'loss of steam' in the valley through various recent efforts. As a result we need to keep the VGS alive for the time when new activities require effort and vision
- we also discussed the relationship between the local vision and the global issues the VGS has in the past engaged with
- there are potential project around young people, wet weather space for youngsters, repair cafe, workshops on topics of interest, raising awareness on topics of interest etc
- we also touched on the relationship in terms of organisation between the SVA and the VGS and any other groups in the Valley

- we noted that none of the current officers are ‘walking away’ completely, just from their roles
- the basic requirements for keeping the Vision Group alive are someone as a a) contact for bank, 2) website management, 3) administering things like the insurance and 4) contact person for the community

#### 4. The new VGS website (Mary)

- Mary walked us through the new - not yet published under [visionforsidmouth.org](http://visionforsidmouth.org) - Vision Group website
- we have initiated the transfer of our current site to the new host and Mary will make the new site public as soon as these processes are completed
- Mary has transferred all the information from the old site, including existing bookmarks, to the new site designed by her
- Mary has also got access to the Vision Group email from now on
- Please send Mary any information you would like to add to the site eg. on the Beach Garden (John T) or the history of the Vision Group (Robert C - not present at the meeting)
- we agreed to relaunch the website formally later on at a time to be decided

#### 5. Election of officers

- the current Constitution requires 4 officers;
- Mary was unanimously appointed to become the publicity officer, taking over from Liz Bramley with immediate effect
- DB proposed a temporary self organising model, in the sense that if a project arises we will call a meeting and chair these on a rotation basis
- DB agreed to organise and chair the next meeting when a need arises, which is likely to be after the Neighbourhood Plan referendum
- the other roles are left vacant and we have resolved that we need to to change the constitution first
- DB will redraft the Constitution and circulate it to the Coordination meeting attendees who will comment/ edit/ approve it by email. Only those who were present at this meeting will have formal input into the new Constitution (see above)

- DB will also approach Chris Holland for potential volunteers he might know of to take on the role of treasurer
- we've agreed that we are currently without a complete set of officers

## 6. AOB

Given the wide scope of the preceding discussion, we agreed to leave the topics below to be discussed on a future date.

- . GDPR: clarification of policy
- . The VGS website: discuss its future use - as a forum, source of information etc
- . What will be the 2 or 3 strategic issues the VGS would like to progress

7. Next steps - revise constitution and organise meeting in the autumn (**DB**) at a time dependent on the conclusion of the NP process.

If you have any further ideas or thoughts please let Dave Bramley know (email above).