



Villages Together

Villages Together Partnership Meeting minutes

- Date: Wednesday 14th August 2019
- Venue: Puriton Village Hall
- Attendance: Vanda Crow (VC) Chair, Peter Beer (PB) WVM, Sharon Collard CPL, Simon Bale, (SB) V, Angela Gascoigne (AG), Julie Cooper (JC) V, Julie Coleman (JC) PVM, Sue Gould (SG) PVM, John Lunn (JL) PVM, Cyan Matthews (CM) NVM, Lynda Norton (LN) WVM, Alan Scott (AS) NVM, Kim Heathcote (KH) NVM, Mick Bowden (MB) NVM, Angie Lewis (AL) NVM, Jo Harris (JH) Minute taker
- Apologies: Lee Martin-Scull (LMS) NVM, Joanne Plews (JP) NVM, Alan Sharp (AS) VCH, Bob Plews (BP) (NVM), Mo Retford MR (V), Peter Hardwidge (PW), Sophie Cowdell (SC) BLR, Robert Hemms (RH) NVM, Teresa Hemms (TH) NVM.

WVM - Woolavington voting member, PVM - Puriton voting member, V - Visitor, NVM- Non-voting member, CPL - Community project lead, BLR - Big local Rep, CH - Chair, VCH - Vice chair

1 Introductions and apologies for absence.

Apologies as noted above

2 Membership agreement, conflicts of interest

SG conflict of interest with the Puriton Village Hall funding application

3 Agree minutes of July 11th meeting, matters arising and actions.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the July 11th meeting.

- A craft business in Puriton has approached VT and wishes to speak with VC. **SC will give VC their name.**
- Woolavington Hub Celebration Event: how did VT funding contribute to the success of the weekend? **PH to summarise progress.**
- Logo plaques to be purchased and supplied to groups. The plaque is to include the phrase "Supported by". **Ongoing**
- Discuss ways to link with the YWIES (Yew Wah China) School based at Knowle Hall. **Links to Chinese School ongoing.**
- Neil Allen to visit September meeting and look at budgets. **Ongoing**
- Public Health meeting. Responding to health issues as cuts continue to bite.

- Perhaps schedule this for our October meeting so as to keep the meetings clear for other important things emerging. Perhaps as an extra meeting, with food, to look also at review. **Ongoing**
- Orchard in Woolavington **Ongoing**
- Social Media To be the subject of a future Team Time Topic. **Ongoing**
- Sue and Alan Scott have approached with regard to the Puriton Village Hall. There is £10,000 in plan for study of facilities, but more information is needed in connection with more informed decisions about whole area. The partnership needs to discern the function of all community buildings, in particular how their uses overlap with each other, so that we can help to build co-operation and coordinate delivery. Gravity will also be creating amenities, for example. Many requests could be coordinated through Gravity and others together so that there is little doubling of effort. An external consultant might be able to assist with this. **SC to explore this option with VC (CCS may be able to assist).**
- EDF funding can be used to provide 'stop and chat' benches. **SB to explore this further**
- Puriton Community Orchard (YMCA)- Some discussion as to the purpose of the funding. The application is thought to be made by a Taunton based organisation on behalf of local group. Need clarification that this is permitted. Is it similar in principle to DreamScheme? Does it need an appendix in future for new proposals so as to not struggle with the form being 'incomplete'? The partnership were satisfied with the application in principle but need further breakdown on particular uses. SC to request these details be provided and for the proposal to be reviewed at the next meeting - **Sharon emailed Claire from YMCA she has been on leave returning his week - no update as yet.**
- Sunshine Pre-School (Puriton) There were questions: About the sustainability of this project, and whether there is sufficient awareness of what the future might bring. Does VT have a role to ensure for their future sustainability? They preschool have a contingency fund for staffing issues, but that is not necessarily what is required.
- Is this support for young people or community facility? The preschool enables young parents to get back to work, but is this what VT is being asked to fund?
- It was felt that the whole budget needs to be addressed to test what this is all for. VT do not wish to push them away, and perhaps need to live with a bit of risk since the alternative could be damaging to the preschool and therefore not at all benefiting VT. Given the expected increase in population with housing growth etc., it is important that such facilities are supported. **SC to contact and push this forward. - Sharon met with Preschool leaders and have devised a 2-year plan**

4 Finance Update

Underspend noted of £11,435.55 for previous quarter to 31 July 2019.
Commitments are now made for the next quarter of £55,000.

MB raised a discussion around availability of revenue grants through VT is encouraging conversed to usual grants available for capital grants is positive for the community.

Action: review budgets again in October 2019,

Action: JC suggested a timeline to record the incomings and outgoings clearly would be beneficial. Sharon Collard to complete.

5 Brief update from Sharon

It was announced that Sharon Collard was leaving her post with SHAL.

She was given a card and gift with everyone thanks for her hard work and dedication to VT.

'VC thanked Sharon Collard for her help and support with the VT project.'

'SG Sharon has made a massive difference'

Good Neighbours Scheme

Sharon met Brigitte from the Community Council for Somerset and obtained the document provided for the Good Neighbours scheme. Copies of the pack were made available for perusal at the tea break.

Action VT to host a networking event to encourage partnership working, and advertise the group in the community. Developing a 'Good Neighbour' project.

It was discussed if VT could incorporate advertising this scheme in a public celebration event to make transparent funding already issued to Puriton and Woolavington communities.

AS suggested the Good Neighbour Scheme could also be advertised in the Puriton welcome pack for new people moving into the village.

Dreamscheme

The Bitham Walk Project has been progressing with the support of the Dreamscheme. PB has been supporting to develop the garden with great success.

Puriton Church

Rev Doris from Puriton Church may look to request funding for some work to the Church spire. SC and AG have supported Doris to also access other funding strands, rural focus charities etc.

Puriton Party in the Park

SC will have a stand to advertise VT at the event on Saturday 17th August 2019.

Sharon is preparing a handover file for her replacement.

LN asked if there will be any representation at the Woolavington show- this will be looked into.

VC agreed that an event calendar was required to keep track of all events across Woolavington and Puriton so that VT representation can be at all events. Sharon C to take forward

6 Community Buildings Meeting: Wednesday August 28th, 37 Club

VC asked the group- How do we ensure we get the best value for money and support both villages equally? This prompted a discussion around community buildings.

The suggestion was to employ an external consultant to supply a non biased report with their recommendations to move this issue forward.

Gravity are required to put in significant amenities ie football pitches, skateparks etc. Also with their innovation and funding look at different technology, and serving the community in diverse ways i.e electric cars. It was agreed that transport is key between the villages, possibility of using electric vehicles between the communities and changing mind sets. V stated this is innovative thinking for the future.

Therefore it was hoped the meeting on the 28th August would be an informative fact finding meeting establishing a wish list for groups, and to ensure good decision making. Attendees would include, Chairs from local amenities, Parish Councilors, Gravity representatives, and key partners to move this forward.

MB do the amenities have to be provided on the gravity site? VC confirms yes-first thing a footpath inbetween Puriton and Woolavington JC advised the Section 106 planning document is being reviewed at present. Ownership has changed a couple of times so things may have been amended since first release.

VC hoped this project would leave a life long legacy from VT funding.

Action need to develop a village planning strategy, ensuring accessibility for the community (SG)

Action planning officer to attend a VT meeting in the future Julie Cooper to arrange.

7 Teatime Topic: Website view and name, Good neighbours scheme packs (CCS), Grants and funding information

Website Update

Simon Bale advised the website domain name is proving difficult to include the two full village names. A discussion underwent around how other areas named there VT group. It quickly became apparent most only have one village to cover so not having the same issue. SC suggested PurWool Villages Together-this was voted on and agreed.

Action: Agreed that www.purwool.org.uk will be used as the website name. SB can now continue to set up the website.

Action: Postpone to Septembers meeting agenda

Perusal of Good Neighbour Scheme packs.

Assess how to streamline the grants and information Have we got it right?

8 Community Grants

Applicant	Request	Amount	Discussion & Outcome
Woolavington Hub	provide chairs and equipment	£1000	Approved
Woolavington Village Hall	funds to adapt a fire exit	£1000	Approved
Puriton Village Hall	Funds for a 3 step plan to improve the building. flat roof area which is leaking toilets and kitchen, incorporate preschool into the main building 3 quotes have been received.	£9600	VC asked if in the future the building could be open to the community i.e. sing-along events, film nights similar to other local villages. Giving the opportunity for the community to meet each other and form friends, links etc. Approved in principal for stage 1 with potential for some match funding from Sedgemoor District council and SHAL maintenance professional to look at the quotes. AS and SG to apply with Sedgemoor District

			Council and Puriton Parish Council
Woolavington Hand Bell Ringers	grant already received £960 from VT. Asking if VT would cover the additional cost of £300 to get the hand bell's refurbished.	£300	Approved to top up to the £1000 community grant £40.00
Woolavington Church Bell Ringers	Request for refurbishment to the bell frame at Woolavington Church	£13406.40	JC advises there would be a small grant available through Sedgemoor District Council, and possibly the Diocese. VC advises that the written application does not match the criteria and aims of the grant funding objectives. Action to re-submit the form with clearer narrative of the impact this will have on the community. This will then be emailed out to VT members to agree. Also, AG to review the budget to ensure that there is enough funds left under the community building budget area. Take forward to next meeting Also, the church bell ringers to put an application to Parish Council and Sedgemoor District Council for match funding

9 AOB

Replacement for Community Project Lead due to Sharon Collard leaving.

AG advised that due to funding criteria's there will be a restriction with funding to support a full time person including pension and oncost's until the end of the VT

project. VC proposes that they keep SB as a self-employed consultant. AG advises that some legal advice will be needed to be taken to ensure that all employment laws is satisfied to do this- agreed for a six month probationary period with clear task objectives.

10 Date of next meeting

Thursday 12th September 2019, Bitham Walk Hall, 7pm-9pm