

Bettina Kirkham was unanimously elected as Chairman until the Board's next Annual General Meeting and took the Chair.

2. Apologies

Cllr David Barnard, North Herts District Council (Board Member), Mike Stubbs (The National Trust, co-opted member).

3. Public Question Time

No members of the public were present.

4. Declarations of Interest

Gill Gowing declared an interest as Chairman of the Daws Hill and area reference group. Barbara Wallis and Roger Emmett declared an interest as members of this group.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

- The Planning Policy Guidelines will remain as an agenda item for the foreseeable future. No progress has been made.
- Item 6 – The sub group looking at the implications for the AONB and its boundary arising from an increase in development pressures in the setting of the AONB had met once and will meet again shortly.
- Item 6 – Gill Gowing had drafted on behalf of the Chiltern Society their response to the Draft National Planning Policy Framework. She had also written to all MPs concerned, to date only Cheryl Gillan had responded.

7. High Speed 2 – update

The Planning Officer reported that the Transport Select Committee had published its report on HS2, this was discussed at the wider HS2 group meeting and the Government's decision about how to proceed is awaited. He also updated the members about the latest developments. The new Secretary of State had recently met with MPs and members of the Committee were encouraged to read the transcript of this meeting which had taken place on 21st November 2011 (see <http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/high-speed-rail-meeting/high-speed-rail-meeting.pdf>).

It was suggested, and agreed, that Secretary of State appointed Board Members should meet as soon as possible to discuss whether representations should be made to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

1. The Committee NOTED the report.

8. Chilterns AONB Planning Conference – Feedback

The Planning Officer reported that the 9th Annual Chilterns AONB Planning Conference had taken place on Wednesday 5th October at Berkhamsted Civic Centre. 45 attendees from 24 different organisations had attended. The feedback provided was very positive overall. Various comments and suggestions were noted and will be borne in mind when preparing for next year's conference. The following issues were commented on: access by public transport; good mix of presentations; derivation of price; ability to network; use of name badges and usefulness of the field trip (which was, this year, regarded as highly useful and at times inspirational).

Members were asked to suggest possible speakers and subjects for the Conference in 2012. Localism in action, the urban/rural interface and broadband issues were suggested.

- 1. The Committee NOTED the feedback from the Planning Conference and AGREED that issues raised would be addressed for any future conferences.**
- 2. The Committee AGREED that the 10th Annual Chilterns AONB Planning Conference should take place on Wednesday 3rd October 2012.**

9. Chilterns Planning Forum – Feedback

The Planning Officer reported that the most recent AONB Planning Forum had taken place on Friday 18th November at the Aylesbury Vale District Council's Gateway Offices in Aylesbury. The District Council had allowed the use of a room and provided refreshments without charge to the Board. The Planning Officer thanked AVDC for their generosity.

The Forum had been attended by 14 people with 8 of the Chilterns local planning authorities being represented. Those present discussed the format and attendance at the forum, the terms of reference that had been circulated, the implications of the Draft National Planning Policy Framework, the Localism Act (in particular neighbourhood planning, green space and role of the Design Guide), future events and the proposed position statement on renewable energy.

Combining the Planning and Environment Forums was discussed. This would enable more officers and members to commit to attending. A recent meeting of officers had resolved that changes should be made to the Environment Forum and that the Planning Forum should continue in its present format for the time being.

The meetings that the Planning Officer and the Chairman had had with local

planning authorities prior to the forum had been useful for both sides. It keeps the CCB in the forefront of the minds of those at the Local Planning Authorities. The Planning Officer and the new Chairman will continue with the meetings in the new year.

- 1. The Committee NOTED the feedback from the AONB Planning Forum and discussion about the combining of the Planning and Environment Forums.**
- 2. The Committee NOTED the outcomes of the recent visits made to Chilterns local planning authorities by the Chairman and Planning Officer.**

10. Planning Training for Parish and Town Councils

The Board has offered planning training in the past to Parish and Town Councils and considered it appropriate to offer it again in 2012.

The proposal is to offer a short series of events in the summer of 2012. The events could follow the format of previous events with two presentations being made either side of a break with opportunity for questions and discussions. The enactment of the Localism Act and the likely adoption of the National Planning Policy Framework will provide subjects relevant to the intended audience. The Board is likely to have started the process of review of the Management Plan, which could also be discussed.

Progress will be reported at the next meeting.

- 1. The Committee APPROVED the setting up of a series of three training events for Parish and Town Councils in the AONB for early summer 2012.**
- 2. The Committee AGREED to suggest possible locations, topics and presenters for the events.**

11. Proposed student research project (internet land sales) – update

The Planning Officer informed the Committee about the current position regarding the proposed student research project. Students had recently been approached at Oxford Brookes. The Planning Officer will keep the Committee informed at future meetings. The Committee supported the principle of closer working with academic institutions.

- 1. The Committee NOTED the current position in connection with the proposed student research project.**

12. Development Plans Responses

The Planning Officer informed the Committee that responses had been sent in connection with the following development plan documents: Wycombe DC LDF Draft Delivery and Site Allocations DPD and Position Statement on Housing and Land for Business (July 2011), Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Submission DPD and Oxfordshire Draft Minerals and Waste Plans. All responses had been made under delegated powers.

The consultation on the Wycombe DC Community Infrastructure Levy was mentioned and it was pointed out that the document is divided into topics, one of which is Green Infrastructure which has been allocated a large sum.

- 1. The Committee NOTED and APPROVED the responses already made on behalf of the Board in connection with the consultation exercises on the development plan documents as listed.**

13. Planning Applications Update

The Planning Officer informed the Committee about the various representations that had been made in connection with planning applications, and updated the Committee on any outcomes.

This year details of 109 planning applications or appeals have been brought to the attention of, or requested by, the Planning Officer. 103 of these had been responded to, with 18 formal representations (16 objections and 2 supports). 11 of the applications have been determined with 7 in line with the Board's comments and 4 not in line.

The Committee suggested that the Planning Officer should consider including text about possible mitigation measures for applications even where the Board had an objection in principle.

- 1. The Committee NOTED and APPROVED the responses made in connection with the applications listed in Appendix 2.**

14. Any Urgent Business

Barbara Wallis had retired as Chairman of the Committee at the Annual General Meeting in October. The Chairman thanked Barbara for steering the Planning Committee for six and a half years. The Committee has benefited greatly from her experience. It was noted with pleasure that she will remain a member of the Planning Committee. She has been a marvellous role model.

The Planning Officer recorded his thanks to Barbara and passed on those from Mike Stubbs who was grateful for: her excellent chairing of discussions; the way that she kept the Committee focussed and the fact that she fearfully pushed for the right outcomes for the Board and the whole of the Chilterns.

Barbara thanked all for their comments and for the small gift which she had been given as a token of the Committee's thanks.

15. Date of the next meeting

Wednesday 8th February 2012 at the office of the Chilterns Conservation Board, 90 Station Rd, Chinnor commencing at 10.00 am.

Future meetings: 16th May, 5th September and 28th November 2012.

The meeting closed 12.35

The Chairman

Date