

## **Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held on 20 September 2010 at 7.30pm in Garway Village Hall**

### **Present**

Mr D Atkinson (Chair), Mr M Jones, Mrs S Partridge, Mrs R Sparey, Mr C Strange, Mrs C Trew, the clerk and 9 members of the public

### **1. Apologies**

Cllr. R Smith, Mr M Howard

### **2. Declarations Of Interests**

Mr D Atkinson – Personal - Member of Parish Plan Steering Group. Signed the Interests Book.

### **3. Parish Plan – review Final Draft Report submitted by Steering Group and to consider Adoption of Garway Parish Plan by the Council.**

An open forum for members of the public to express their views and ask questions took place approx 30 mins.

The Chair asked the members for their comments:

#### **MJ:**

- Opposed to process from the start
- Concern that exploratory opportunities have been made to introduce a community centre on a different site when responses in Plan not conclusive.
- Parish Council must be robust in scrutinizing any plans brought forward by the Actions Groups.

#### **CT: (Answers from the Chair)**

- Was the Plan a legal document? *No*
- Everything had become unnecessarily personal – opinions should be expressed
- The process and documentation to be open and transparent.
- Some questions were directed, therefore, respondents may not have answered in the way they would have chosen to.
- Is the Planning for Real info. available? It would be useful to compare the three documents. *The Planning for Real Event was the foundation consultation - used to put the questionnaire together.*
- Were only Garway Electors allowed into the Planning for Real Event? *Yes – monitored at door.*
- Can we approve certain sections of the Plan and defer others. Concerned about Section 1 (planning) and 6 (community facilities) Action plan not consistent with responses *No – all eight elements made up the whole for approval. Nothing in document is binding, there will be further consultation on each section by the Action Groups*
- Why the rush to adopt the Plan? *The Steering Group have worked on the Plan for 18 months and would like to see the culmination of their effort and move to the next stage.*

**CS:**

Noted an earlier statement from the floor that the data from the questionnaire which was collated by the Research Dept. at Herefordshire Council was fundamentally flawed and that the responses should be returned to them for re-examination – Mr Strange concerned if errors had been made in the statistics.

However, felt this Plan needed to be available to the public as soon as possible and adoption of the document would enable this to happen.

**RS:**

- Initial enthusiasm for Plan
- A lot of time and money spent in reaching this stage
- Would like more information about the statistics and the methodology used.
- Urged as many people as possible to join the Action Groups and become involved.
- Very important that the Parish Council monitors the actions outlined in the document and do not feel constrained by the Plan when it comes to making decisions. It is on this basis that she would support the adoption of the Plan.

**SP:**

- Garway has changed over the years and will continue to change. The Plan is a fluid document to encompass this.
- Approval of the Plan by the Council is the starting point for ideas from the Community- not a binding document.
- Actions Groups will identify any flaws in the Plan as they work through the objectives and many of the responses and action points may well change as it evolves.
- May encourage more people to be come involved in the community and have their say on the matters that affect them

The Chair then asked the Members to vote on the motion that “The Parish Council Adopts the Garway Parish Plan”. Votes : 3 in favour - 2 against. Carried.

There being no further business the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 8.25pm