

MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANS COMMITTEE held in Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 2 September 2013 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT Cllr P.J. Lathey (Chairman)

Cllrs:	G.J. Ackerman	C.M. Ray
	Ms R.C. kayes	D.G. Rickard
	C.O. Michell	Ms S.J. Williams

Also present: Councillors Ms G.E Massey and
Ms A-M A Vincent

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr S. Heinz, the applicant, spoke in support of his application A7/1078 - Roundham House, Roundham Gardens

Mr R. Gregory, Chair of the Bridport branch of the National Market Traders Federation, informed members that there were already 3,000 signatures opposing the introduction of pay and display meters in Bridport.

34. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs E.T. Colfox and Ms G.E. Summers.

35. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 July 2013 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C.O. Michell declared an interest in application A5/872I Courtyard Cottage, St. Andrews Road as he knew the applicant. He left the room during consideration of this application.

37. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED: that the recommendations set out in column 4 of the attached schedule A be forwarded to the District Council.

38. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 2710.

Members noted that the application for the East Street public conveniences had been withdrawn and it was asked what the proposals were for the site. The Town Clerk was asked if he could report on this matter to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

39. LOCAL PLAN PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS CONSULTATION

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2713.

It was reported that the timescale for the consultation was to be extended and the Town Clerk was asked to confirm the details.

It was proposed that the Local Plan Working Group meet on 16 September at 10am to consider the detail of the modifications and that Symondsbury Parish Council be asked if they could attend. The comments from the Working Group would go forward to the full Council for approval.

Members felt that there needed to be more information on Vearse Farm and it was asked if West Dorset District Council could be contacted to arrange for this to happen.

RESOLVED: that the Local Plan Working Group be reconvened to consider the detail of Local Plan modifications and report back to the Council on 17 September subject to confirmation on the revised timing for the consultation.

40. PROPOSAL FOR PAY AND DISPLAY IN BRIDPORT

Councillors considered a letter from Dorset County Council, ENCL: 2714.

The Committee strongly opposed the proposal from Dorset County Council for the existing waiting bays in the town centre to become pay and display bays and the comments made included the following:

- It would have a detrimental impact on the market, with the bays currently used by market traders.
- It would deter people from coming into the town centre and parking with the consequent impact on the local economy and local businesses. The proposal would be detrimental to the vitality of the town centre.
- It would add unnecessary street furniture, which could be detrimental to the town centre's street scene.
- It was understood that the scheme, where it had been introduced elsewhere, had not been popular and the Committee asked for evidence of where it had been introduced successfully. It would want to see a full feasibility study of how the proposal would affect Bridport before it was taken any further.
- As stated in the public session, 3,000 people had already signed a petition opposing the changes and the Committee was not aware of anybody locally who was in favour.

It was also added that the proposal would still be a cost to the County Council, as wardens would need to monitor usage and the machines be maintained.

The comments from the Committee would be recommended to the full Town Council meeting on 17 September, where the Council's final response will be approved.

RECOMMEND: that the comments above be included in the Town Council's response to Dorset County Council on its proposal for pay and display bays in Bridport.

41. DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOCAL BUS NETWORK

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2715.

Members considered the report and the additional comments from WATAG.

Members had concerns regarding the proposals and the impact on people wishing to use public transport to come into the town. In addition to the comments in the report, the following specific issues were raised:

- the surveys were undertaken in winter and would show less bus usage than during the summer. The route surveys should be undertaken during the summer.
- WATAG had suggestions for alternative options to be considered for services including asking users of threatened services if they would be prepared to pay and not use their concessionary passes.
- it was felt that there needed to be more liaison by the County Council with WATAG and consideration of alternative options to provide services, before any decisions were taken.

RECOMMEND: that the response to the County Council's consultation on bus services be agreed as in the report and the comments above.

42. BOURNEMOUTH, DORSET AND POOLE MINERALS DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK MODIFICATIONS TO THE SUBMISSION MINERALS STRATEGY

Members noted that there were no specific implications for Bridport but it was commented that there were concerns that proposals could be considered for fracking elsewhere in Dorset.

RESOLVED: that the Committee had no specific comments on the proposed modifications but it would wish to register its concern regarding any proposals to embark on fracking in Dorset.

43. WEST BAY TOURISM SIGNAGE

The Town Clerk reported on two new brown tourist signs that the West Bay Forum had proposed to Dorset County Council. The signage was generally supported.

It was also felt it could be helpful to have additional direction signs to the centre of West Bay and not to turn left towards the Burton road.

RESOLVED: that the proposed signage be supported.

44. STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING

There were no items raised.

45. ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE – UPDATE ON LISTINGS DETERMINED AND TO BE CONSIDERED BY WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Town Clerk reported on the two listings – the Trick Factory and the TLC building – which had been de-listed by West Dorset District Council on appeal.

The Committee expressed concern at these decisions and particularly the Trick Factory. It considered that this building would still continue to further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community. It noted that it was stated that the Town Council's skate park project would be in competition with the Trick Factory but this would not be the case. The skate park and the Trick factory had operated for some time and the Town Council needed to emphasise that there was no question of being in competition. The Council had been and was supportive of the Trick Factory.

The Committee raised concerns about the process to delist the Trick Factory in particular but also felt that these decisions showed how difficult it was for local community groups to list properties, as intended by the Regulations introduced by the Localism Act. It asked that the Town Clerk write to West Dorset District Council to express these concerns.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee write to the District Council expressing the Committee's concerns as stated above particularly in respect of the decision to de-list the Trick Factory.

46. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications reported.

The meeting closed at **8.20 p.m.**

The next meeting of the Plans Committee will be held on 30 September 2013