

MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 26 September at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT Cllr Sarah Williams (in the Chair)

Cllrs: Geoffrey Ackerman Barry Irvine (until 8pm)
Sarah Horniman Dave Rickard

PUBLIC FORUM

James Tigg spoke against the proposals to resurface the Bridport Arms Car Park and presented alternative options for the car park.

Sylvia Seal spoke against the Bridport Arms Car Park resurfacing, raising concerns about the colour and drainage. She also referred to potential drainage issues with the Station Road Car Park resurfacing.

John West, West Bay Community Forum, said that the Forum was in favour of improving the car parks but did have concerns about the use of black tarmac at the Bridport Arms Car Park.

The Town Clerk reported a number of emails received, including one from the Bridport Environment Group, expressing concerns at the proposals for the Bridport Arms Car Park.

Richard Freer and Terry Lambert both spoke about the Vearse Farm site and raised the issue of the need for affordable housing and service provision.

Gavin Fryer spoke about the need for a 20mph limit on West Allington, between the Rivers Brit and Simene. Members agreed that the issue of traffic speeds in West Allington would be raised at the next Highways Working Group and reported back to this Committee.

55. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Teresa Harrison and Julian Jones.

56. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 September 2016 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

58. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no applications listed in Appendix B.

RESOLVED: that the recommendations set out in column 4 of the attached [Schedule A](#) be forwarded to the District Council.

59. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3136.

Members reiterated their concern at the decision taken to approve the Cafe Royal application, changing the alignment of the windows.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

60. ARRANGEMENTS AND REPRESENTATION FOR HEARING ON PLANNING APPEALS FOR NORMAN GOOD AND SONS, STATION ROAD, WEST BAY

RESOLVED: that Cllrs Sarah Williams and Dave Rickard represent the Town Council at the appeal hearing, scheduled for 12 and 13 October.

61. CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT PARKING POLICY FOR WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL'S CAR PARKS

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3137.

Members separately considered the policy, proposed charges and resurfacing proposals for West Bay car parks and made the following comments:

Car Park Policy

Coach Parking – free parking should continue to be allowed on market days.

There should not be a reduction in the number of car parks in Bridport and West Bay. Members questioned the statement in the report that there were sufficient car parking places in West Dorset. This was not the case in Bridport and West Bay. More spaces were needed.

Members welcomed the intention to encourage alternative “greener” transportation options, but commented that this was at the same time as support for public bus services was being reduced.

The split responsibilities for parking (on street and off street) between the County Council and District Council added additional complications.

If car parking spaces were enlarged would that mean a loss in the number of spaces?

Christmas shopping free parking needed to be advertised early.

There was a need for disabled parking bays and those removed in East Street Car Park, for electric charging, should be replaced.

The pay machines were not easy for people with disabilities to use. The displays were hard to see and keys not easy to use for people with restricted movement or visibility

issues. It was asked if this could be looked at. The proposed new machines should be fully accessible for all.

Audit of Car Parks – it was asked if the Town Council, through the Town Surveyor, could be involved in the condition surveys of the Bridport and West Bay car parks.

Signage in car parks – the new Bridport signage put in by the Town Council, working with the District Council, had been well received.

Car Park Charges

Bridport - Short stay car parks - the reduced charge for very short duration parking (currently 20 minutes) should be retained and extended to 30 minutes

The new all day charge of £6.30 in short stay car parks was questioned.

West Bay - The increase in the all day charge on East Beach was a concern.

Members felt that the increase in the level of charge for all day parking was very high. It was commented that there did not seem to be a consistent approach to all day parking. This needed to be looked at, to rationalise the all day charges.

Season Tickets - it was asked if Bridport could have a lower (level 3) rate for some of its car parks.

Car Park Resurfacing West Bay

Members generally accepted the need to improve the surfacing and markings on the three identified car parks in West Bay (Bridport Arms, West Bay Road and Station Road). It was important in particular to look at the safety of the surface at the Bridport Arms and also East Beach as well. It was suggested that, as an initial step, the surface at these car parks could be regraded, keeping a stone based surface. It was commented that it was possible to mark spaces on such surfaces. Tarmac should not be used for the Bridport Arms car park and a surface more in keeping with the area should be looked at. The Environment Agency should also be asked to look at the proposed surfacing for both Station Road and the Bridport Arms car parks. It was important to ensure that the surface could drain properly.

Overall it was hoped that the appropriate surfacing could be looked at for all three car parks (Bridport Arms, West Bay Road and Station Road) as part of the proposed audit of the car parks.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Committee Chairman, respond on the car park policy, charges and resurfacing proposals, to include the above comments.

62. A35 WORKING GROUP MEETING REPORT BACK

The Chairman reported on the recent meeting of the Working Group. The issues discussed included the Miles Cross junction, contingency planning in the event of A35 closures (including improved signage) and speed control.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

63. VEARSE FARM MASTER PLAN MEETINGS UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported on the recent meeting with community representatives to discuss feed back on affordable housing provision and employment land. The provision of a community farm was also to be discussed and it was hoped to set up a further meeting with the developers very soon.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

64. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Town Clerk provided an update on the latest position.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

65. CONTROL OF SEAGULL FEEDING IN WEST BAY

The Town Clerk reported that it was proposed that the control of seagull feeding in West Bay should be brought within the regulation of Public Space Protection Orders.

Whilst this was generally supported by the Committee, there was some concern about how such regulation would be enforced.

RESOLVED: that the proposal to include the control of seagulls within the regulation of Public Space Protection Orders be supported with the comments as above.

66. HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP

The Town Clerk reported that the next meeting was due to be on Thursday 13 October at 2.30pm. Bearing in mind that the Norman Good appeal hearing could extend to that day, it was agreed that an alternative date should be looked at for the Working Group.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

67. COMMUNICATIONS AND ONGOING ISSUES

The Town Clerk reported that:

- Cllr Sarah Horniman was to attend the Environment Agency's West Bay Flood Prevention meeting on 29 September.
- West Dorset District Council had notified all councils that there was a shortfall in its five year housing land supply. This could have implications for planning decisions, as less weight could be given to local plan policies. Proposals would have to be assessed against national policies. The Council was working to improve this position.

The meeting closed at **8.55pm**.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be on 24 October 2016