

MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANS COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 5 March 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT      Cllr    Ms S.J. Williams (in the Chair)

                  Cllrs: G.J. Ackerman                    C.O. Michell  
                  Ms R.C. Kayes                         D.G. Rickard  
                  P.J. Lathey                                C.M. Ray

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

The following people spoke in the public forum:

A10/77 West Bay Harbour, Quayside, West Bay - Erect NCI Lookout.

Mr Clive Edwards, on behalf of the applicant.

Mr Bob Smith, Chairman of the Bridport Tourism Association in support of the application.

Mr Philip Ringer, Mrs Sylvia Stafford and Mr Albert Hogg raised objections regarding the proposed location for the Lookout, whilst emphasising their support for coastwatch.

The Town Clerk also reported and circulated letters received from:

Mr Hudd, Mr Ross Wallace and Mr Heathfield, all in support of the application.

Mrs Sylvia Stafford detailing concerns on the location with photographs.

A3/2032 5-7, North Allington - Erection of 5 Dwellings.

Mr Peter Watson spoke in objection to the application. He also circulated a copy of his statement with photographs.

Mrs Eileen Harding spoke in respect of agenda item 7 - West Dorset District Council - Availability of Hard Copy of Plans. Mrs Harding raised some reported discrepancies between the notification of planning applications that had been published and the availability of information on the Dorsetforyou web site. She stated that this showed the importance of retaining hard copies of the plans in the area office.

The Town Clerk also reported and tabled a letter received from Mr Senior, in objection to Application A14/138 – 51, Burton Road.

## **91. APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr E.T. Colfox.

**92. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 February 2012 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**93. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs S.J. Williams declared a personal and prejudicial interest in application A10/77 West Bay Harbour, Quayside, West Bay - Erect NCI Lookout. This was due to an interest through her husband's employment. She left the room while discussions took place and a decision was taken on this application.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor G.J. Ackerman, chaired the meeting for this application.

**94. PLANNING AND TREE APPLICATIONS**

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

**95. PLANNING AND TREE APPLICATION DECISIONS**

Members noted the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 2507.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

**96. STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING**

There were no issues raised.

**97. WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL - AVAILABILITY OF HARD COPY OF PLANS**

The District Council's proposal to end the supply of hard copy planning files to the Mountfield reception was considered by the Committee.

Members made the following comments:

- it did appear that on occasions, as reported in the Public Forum, not all information appeared on line. Also, it was felt that the plans were not always easy to interpret, as on occasions the format was either too large, too small or the wrong way up.
- there were potential problems for people of slow and inconsistent internet connections. The Committee viewed plans via Dorsetforyou at its Plans Committee, but there had been occasions recently where the connection was slow and it had been useful to be able to refer to the hard copy of the plans.
- it was noted that people were to be encouraged to view the plans on a terminal in the Mountfield reception and members felt that many people might not want or be able to do this. It was still the case that many people found it much easier to

look at a hard copy of a plan. It was also felt that those people who did not have access to, or were unable to use a computer at home, were not likely to be happy struggling with that technology in public, making it difficult for these people to view the plans. There were some estimates that over 30% of adults in West Dorset were not computer literate and this proposal could significantly increase the Democratic Deficit.

- there were also concerns as to whether there would be sufficient trained staff with the time to offer assistance to these members of the public and be able to take them through the process, every time they came to view plans.

RESOLVED: that, for the reasons set out above, it was agreed that the Committee would not wish to see the hard copies of plans stopped and it was hoped that the District Council would reconsider its decision.

**98. COASTAL COMMUNITY FUND – PROSPECTUS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2509.

Members discussed the application. It was that the possibility of putting forward a project for consideration under the scheme should be discussed further by interested members, including Committee Chairmen and reported back to this Committee.

RESOLVED: that the publication of the Coastal Communities Fund prospectus be noted and a further report be submitted on the potential interest in submitting a project, in line with the scheme criteria.

**99. SPEAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNCLLORS NOT ON THE COMMITTEE – CONFIRMATION OF PROCESS**

The Town Clerk raised the possibility of amending Standing Orders, to clarify the arrangements for councillors not on the Committee, to speak on applications.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk report back with proposed wording for an amendment to Standing Orders regarding non Committee members speaking at the Plans Committee meetings.

**100. NEW TOWN CENTRE TOILETS, SOUTH STREET – APPLICATION FOR AMENDED OPERATING HOURS**

The Town Clerk reported that it was proposed to amend the operating hours for the facility to open at 6am, which would assist market traders and was in line with opening hours for other such facilities in the town.

RESOLVED: that the submission of an application to amend the conditions for the opening hours of the South Street toilets, to enable them to open at 6am, be approved.

## **101. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Town Clerk reported a letter received regarding a request to mark Earth Hour in Bucky Doo Square with a one hour vigil on 31 March from 8.30pm, when between 10 and 30 people would give out information on the importance of conserving energy. The Committee had no objection to the proposal.

The Town Surveyor reported that Western Power had asked for any observations on a proposed new substation on the verge at the junction of Sea Road North and St Andrews Road. Members felt it was difficult to comment without seeing the detail of structure and that this would have to be considered through the planning process.

The meeting closed at **8.30 p.m.**

**The next meeting of the Plans Committee will be held on 2 April 2012**