

MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held in Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 25 March 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT Cllr Sarah Williams (in the Chair)

Cllrs:	Geoffrey Ackerman	Julian Jones
	Terry Harrison	Anne Rickard
	Sarah Horniman	Dave Rickard
	Barry Irvine	

ALSO PRESENT: Cllrs Maggie and Martin Ray

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public attended the Public Forum.

PRESENTATION

The Town Surveyor presented plans showing outline proposals for Bridport Bus Station. These showed a footprint for a building and transport hub area only, regardless of any wider redevelopment, so that the Town Council could progress consultation, funding and delivery of the aspirations of the Town Council. A proposed building could house a café, toilets, bus office, taxi office, recording/performance area, toilets and, upstairs, an indoor skate park.

Members discussed the following:

- Liaison with the Play Area Steering Group
- The need for a lift in the building, which the Town Surveyor said would be incorporated
- The need to coordinate proposals with the proposed redevelopment of St Michaels Trading Estate
- The need for coach parking
- The need for extensive consultation

The Chairman thanked the Town Surveyor for his presentation.

Cllrs Maggie and Marti Ray left the meeting at this point.

96. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

97. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Sarah Williams declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in planning application WD/D/19/000136 as a trustee of the Bridport Area Development Trust. She advised that she would leave the meeting during discussion of this item.

98. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 February 2019 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Jones asked about the representation received from the group looking to develop proposals for Watton Hill, as referred to in the minutes. Cllr Sarah Williams said that she had referred the group to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk advised that he had not yet heard from the group.

99. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

100. OTHER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

The Town Clerk advised that no applications had been received after publication of the agenda, and that following discussions with the Chairman, this item would not appear on future agendas.

101. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3414.

Members expressed disappointment that permission had been granted for planning application WD/D/18/001566, despite many public representations and a detailed objection from the Town Council. The Town Clerk agreed to contact the Public Rights of Way team to ask that the right of way at the location be retained.

Members discussed more general concerns about ensuring Town Council comments were taken into account by the planning authority, and the need for democratic control over decisions.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

102. HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2019 were received and the following recommendations approved:

(min. 6)

a. St George's Day Parade – Scouts

The Town Clerk reported on a request from Bridport Scouts for a road closure on 28 April for a St Georges Day parade.

RESOLVED: that the request be approved.

b. Pedestrian Distance Signs

A letter had been received from the British Weights and Measures Association, reminding the Council that all highway distance signs should show imperial measurements.

RESOLVED: that the Council responds thanking the Association for its advice.

c. Direct Action Now Group East Road – Community Speed Watch

Members considered a request for £150 in funding support from the Direct Action Now Group East Road (DANGER), as a match funding contribution to the cost of speed monitoring equipment. The funding had been agreed by Best Value & Scrutiny Sub-Committee, subject to the support of the Working Group.

RESOLVED: that the request for £150 for speed monitoring equipment for DANGER be supported.

d. Parking in Coneygar Close

The Working Group had considered a request from residents of Coneygar Close for residents' parking and yellow lines at Coneygar Close. This had been received from Dorset County Council, who advised that the first step would be to establish whether it was supported by the Town Council.

The Working Group had considered the likely cost of the measures, the relatively small number of residences affected, and the relatively short times at which the area was affected by parking difficulties. It was also noted that residences in the Close had garages.

RESOLVED: that the request for residents' parking and yellow lines in Coneygar Close not be supported.

f. Diment Gardens/Court Orchard Road

The Working Group had considered requests for parking restrictions in Diment Gardens and Court Orchard Road, which had been forwarded to DCC as requested at the previous working group meeting. DCC had replied requesting confirmation that the Town Council would support the requests.

RESOLVED: that the requests for parking restrictions in Diment Gardens and Court Orchard Road be supported.

103. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Chairman provided an update on the Neighbourhood Plan project. The Regulation 15 Submission draft had been approved by the Joint Councils Committee, and the Town Council would meet on 26 March to consider approval. She thanked all those involved for the hard work that had gone into developing the Plan.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

104. COMMUNICATIONS AND ONGOING ISSUES

The Town Clerk reported on the following:

A change of use planning application had been submitted by the Town Council in respect of The Grove, Rax Lane. This would be tabled at the next meeting.

A letter had been received from Gladman Developments Ltd asking for a closed meeting with the Town Council to discuss a proposed development at land east of Dottery Road. Members discussed the request, and expressed concern about a closed meeting. The Town Clerk advised that he would reply advising that councillors would attend any public exhibition organised, and would then decide whether to invite the developer to address a meeting of the Committee in open session.

The meeting closed at 8.03pm.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on 29 April 2019