

MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 3 June 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT Cllr Anne Rickard (in the Chair from item 2 onwards)

Cllrs: Geoff Ackerman Barry Irvine
Dave Bolwell Julian Jones
Sarah Carney Sarah Williams
Kelvin Clayton

Also present: Cllr Karen Hunt and Dave Rickard.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: that Cllr Anne Rickard be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year 2019/2020.

Councillor Anne Rickard assumed the Chair.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: that Cllr Sarah Williams be elected Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year 2019/2020.

PUBLIC FORUM

Philip Carney spoke objecting to planning application WD/D/19/001202. He said that the reserved matters application was a trick, and that the Council should consider all aspects of the application. He referred back to a previous application for development at Vearse Farm, and considered that a more detailed response in similar circumstances might have had more weight.

Richard Freer spoke in respect of a development at Vearse Farm. He said that there was an opportunity with a newly elected Dorset Council to review the decision to allow this development. He said he would like Bridport Town Council to put pressure on Dorset Council to reassess the matter, possibly as part of a review of the Local Plan.

Colin Baker spoke in respect of planning application WD/D/19/001202. He said that the applicant was not the landowner, and that often the aim in such a situation was to enhance the value of the land on behalf of the landowner, in other words to achieve planning gain.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Ian Bark.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Sarah Williams declared an interest as a member of Dorset Council and of its Western and Southern Area Planning Committee. She left the meeting for the duration of consideration of planning application WD/D/19/001202.

Cllr Sarah Carney declared an interest as a member of ADVEARSE, and the spouse of a speaker during the Public Forum.

Cllr Kelvin Clayton declared an interest as a member of Dorset Council and of its Western and Southern Area Planning Committee. He said that he would not prejudice his position at this meeting in relation to applications that may be considered at a later date by Dorset Council's committee.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 April 2019 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

7. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3425.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

8. TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUP

The Town Clerk reported that two main and one reserve members were required for this working group.

RESOLVED: that Cllrs Barry Irvine and Kelvin Clayton are agreed as main members of the Town Centre Working Group, and that Cllr Karen Hunt be agreed as the reserve member.

9. ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY LIAISON WORKING GROUP

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr Dave Rickard had expressed a preference to represent the Council on this body, and that it was open to the Council to appoint a second member.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Dave Rickard be agreed as the Council's representative on the St Michael's Community Liaison Group, and that Full Council be asked to consider whether to appoint a second member.

10. HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

RESOLVED: that the terms of reference for the Working Group be confirmed and the dates for the working group meetings be noted, as in the agenda.

11. AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROPOSAL

The Town Clerk reported on a presentation at the previous meeting of the committee by Mr Barry Lewis, proposing affordable housing developments in the Bridport area in partnership with the Town Council. At the time the Chairman had thanked him and advised that the requirements of Purdah meant that the Council could not make any decisions at this time, but may invite him for a further discussion. The matter was to be included on the next committee agenda. The main issues arising from the presentation were (i) whether the Town Council could identify potential exception sites to work up proposals from, and (ii) if so, whether and how the Council would want to take this project forward.

Members noted that potential exception sites were likely to be on land outside the parish, and that this and other aspects of the proposals could benefit from the input of the Neighbourhood Plan Joint Councils Committee.

RESOLVED: that this proposal be tabled for consideration by the Neighbourhood Plan Joint Councils Committee, and should there be a positive outcome, that Mr Lewis be invited to meet again with the Planning Committee.

12. ASKER MEADOWS

The Town Clerk updated members on a request from the Round Table to use Asker Meadows for their annual firework display. The committee had previously agreed that the request be declined pending information that would satisfy the Council's concerns in respect of highway safety, environmental impacts, the proximity to residential properties, and the availability of parking. The Round Table had now updated their request with responses and proposals aiming to allay concerns, including the possibility of not incorporating a bonfire into the event. The Round Table sought to provide a free public firework display for the people of Bridport, if possible with a bonfire, and including a public bar and food with live music.

Members remained concerned at the potential impact on highway safety, nearby residents, pollution and climate change. This was the case in respect of both a bonfire and a firework display. They felt that more information was still needed before permission could be granted.

RESOLVED: that a report be tabled for the next committee meeting, and that the Round Table be invited.

RESOLVED: that the Round Table be requested to carry out consultation with local residents prior to further consideration of their request.

13. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no items reported.

The meeting closed at **8.57pm**.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on 24 June 2019