

MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 24 June 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT            Cllr: Anne Rickard (in the Chair)

Cllrs: Geoffrey Ackerman	Kelvin Clayton
Ian Bark	Barry Irvine
Dave Bolwell	Sarah Williams
Sarah Carney	

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Carol Newton spoke in the Public Forum to express concerns about changes to Asker Meadows, including the cycle path, events on the show field and picnic tables. She regarded this a suburbanisation of a wildlife haven.

A discussion considered:

- The management plan that is in place for the Meadows.
- The balance between preserving nature and ways of using the area to attract people to experience nature.
- The importance of the Asker Meadows Nature Reserve Group in helping to manage the area and in ensuring community input into current and future plans.
- The improved access and events that had encouraged use.
- The need for additional bins, which were had been ordered and were due to be installed imminently.
- The importance of the Rights Respecting message in ensuring people keep the area free of litter.
- The need to consider banning the use of glass at events, and to liaise closely with event organisers.

The Chairman thanked Carol for her contribution.

#### **14. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Julian Jones.

#### **15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No councillor declared a disclosable pecuniary or other interest in any matter on the agenda.

#### **16. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 3 June 2019 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the chairman.

It was noted that the layout of committee comments on planning applications should be reconsidered so as to use less paper.

Responding to a question from Cllr Dave Rickard, Cllr Sarah Williams advised that a meeting on 4 July might clarify requirements for call-in of planning applications for committee consideration.

**17. ASKER MEADOWS – USE FOR FIREWORKS EVENT**

RESOLVED: that this item be deferred pending further feedback from the organisers of the proposed event.

**18. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

**19. PLANNING DECISIONS**

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3426.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

**20. TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUP**

The Town Clerk reported on the notes of the meeting of the working group on 17 June 2019, which had focused on a 'health check' for the town centre as the starting point for developing future proposals, and as an exercise that could be repeated every two years to gauge the health of the centre from retail, environmental, accessibility and other perspectives.

The meeting had also considered air quality and traffic surveys, with a recommendation that funding be approved for the latter.

RESOLVED: that funding of £1,200 for two traffic surveys be approved.

RESOLVED: that the notes of the Town Centre Working Group meeting of 17 June 2019 be noted.

**21. HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP**

The notes of the meeting held on 20 June 2019 were received and recommendations therein approved as below:

**(Min 5) WATAG Public Transport Issues**

RESOLVED: that the request for funding for a Sunday bus service from Axminster to Poole not be supported, and that WATAG be requested to ask Dorset Council to co-ordinate efforts to introduce such a service.

**(Min 6) Round Bridport Bus Route**

RESOLVED: that the Community Bus Working Group should consider:

- the operating model, with a possible link with Dorset Community Transport or the CB3 service.
- A passenger survey.
- Investment in Ring & Ride as a potential alternative.
- Means of establishing why non-users are not attracted to the service.
- A breakdown of passenger numbers at different times.

### **(Min 7) Updates on Traffic Management Issues**

a.      Parking Restrictions – Coneygar Close

RESOLVED: that the request for parking restrictions in Coneygar Close not be supported.

b.      Town Centre Traffic Lights

RESOLVED: that sounders at the Town Hall pedestrian crossings be supported.

c.      West Bay:

RESOLVED: that Dorset Council's 'Option 2' for a pedestrian crossing at West Bay be supported.

RESOLVED: that a request from West Bay Forum to relocate the vehicle priority sign to the west of the Sluice Bridge to make it more visible to oncoming traffic be supported.

RESOLVED: that a request from West Bay Forum to tilt the clearway signs to make them more visible to oncoming traffic be supported, and that Dorset Council be asked to consider introducing 'red line' parking restrictions.

d.      Relocation of taxi rank from West Street to Rope Walks

RESOLVED: that this change be supported, subject to there being measures to protect the bus stop on West Street.

e.      Relocation of bus stop from Spar East Street to end of Barrack Street

RESOLVED: that this item be deferred pending a further report by the Town Surveyor.

### **(Min 8) Other Highway Matters**

a.      Chestnut Road – camber at pedestrian crossing point.

RESOLVED: that no action be taken.

b.      West Bay Welcome Hub – temporary reinstallation of old seating due to a delay in the provision of new stone seating.

RESOLVED: that the old seating be painted and reinstated.

- c. Report of an injury resulting from a slip on an inspection cover on the Sluice Bridge at West Bay.

RESOLVED: that Dorset Council be asked to add a painted grip surface.

- e. Speed limits and speed limit signage.

RESOLVED: that BLAP be asked to table this matter for discussion by its Parish Liaison Working Group.

## **22. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Clerk reported on a consultation by Dorset Council on its proposed Statement of Community Involvement. As the invitation to respond had only been received after publication of the agenda a response could not be resolved by the committee, and since the closing date for responses was shown as 26 July, before the next committee meeting, a response would be submitted under delegation with informal input from members and with the agreement of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Council Leader.

The meeting closed at **8.40pm**

**The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 29 July 2019**