

Notes of an INQUORATE meeting of the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL COUNCIL JOINT COMMITTEE (NPJCC) held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 10.00am.

PRESENT: Councillors: Colin Baker (Bradpole Parish Council), Ian Bark (Bridport Town Council, Chairman from note 2), and Amanda Streatfield (Symondsburry Parish Council).

Also present: David Dixon (Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer) and Will Austin (Clerk to the Joint Committee).

## **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Following a discussion about the arrangements for electing the Chairman, the Clerk agreed to investigate the means by which the position could be held on a rotational basis by representatives of each participating council.

Following nomination by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Streatfield, it was

RECOMMENDED: that Cllr Ian Bark be elected to serve as the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Joint Councils Committee for the municipal year 2019-2020.

Cllr Bark chaired the meeting from this point.

## **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Chris Dobbs (Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council).

The Clerk advised that as the meeting was inquorate, notes would be taken and would include recommendations for the next quorate meeting.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **4. MINUTES**

RECOMMENDED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

## **5. REGULATION 16 CONSULTATION**

The Project Manager reported on the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Regulation 16 consultation as follows:

- The consultation had closed on 28 June and responses would be forwarded by Dorset Council to the Examiner in an estimated two weeks.
- Deborah McCann had been agreed as Examiner.

- Typically the Examiner would take two to three weeks to review the submission draft of the NP and produce a first report.
- The Examiner's report will identify whether an Formal hearing will be required. If so, this could take several weeks to arrange.
- A fact checking report would follow, giving two weeks for the NPJCC to respond.
- A final report would then be issued to Dorset Council for consideration by the appropriate committee.
- Modifications would need to be agreed by the participating councils and the NPJCC.
- Dorset Council would keep the NPJCC informed throughout the process, and would meet the cost of the Examiner.

Cllr Baker asked whether a consultation report would be sent to the NPJCC. The Project Manager agreed to investigate.

RECOMMENDED: that the report of the Project Manager be noted.

## 5. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROJECTS AND ACTIONS**

The Project Manager reported on the River Brit Corridor Study. Members considered the following:

- An email from Bradpole Parish Council had raised concerns about the inclusion of a reference to the Parish Council as a key partner prior to consultation. The email was tabled for consideration. Cllr Baker explained the concerns and the Clerk provided assurance that the document was a draft for consideration by those identified as key stakeholders only at this stage. It was acknowledged that care would need to be used in the wording of documents that sought to engage participating councils, and that the document should be provided to Symondsburry Parish Council.
- Cllr Baker said the River Brit work was joined up thinking and he had already passed back some comments to the Project Manager.
- Cllr Baker highlighted a difference between the NP map identifying green areas, green spaces and green gaps, and the green spaces map in the River Brit Study.
- Cllr Baker said he was not comfortable with promoting any development in the AONB which was outside of the DDB and possibly in conflict with BANP policies. He did not believe that this was what the study wished to convey but the existing text could be misread by those that wish to misread it. Whilst he and Bradpole PC were not against promoting quality development where BANP/LP policies etc. allow, he considered that perhaps the text could be better laid out to avoid any ambiguity.

The Project Manager advised that Bridport Town Council's Open Spaces Task Force had considered the document on 2 July and had recommended a public consultation after the summer, and following the engagement of key stakeholders.

The Project Manager further reported on the Green Space Interpretation Project. This incorporated four projects that were contained within the NP, and linked with heritage interpretation. Crystal Johnson had been engaged to produce an action plan. The document had identified a 'green ring' and local organisations had been engaged in the form of a task force to recommend routes. An artist had also been commissioned, and would meet with the task force in July.

The Chairman outlined Bridport Town Council's declaration of a climate emergency, and its commitment to an associated action plan within six months. It had been recognised that the Town Council's work would benefit from engagement by neighbouring parishes. The Town Clerk advised that the matter had been discussed by the Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP) Parish Liaison Working Group, and he would be circulating information to all parishes in the BLAP area. Cllr Baker reminded the meeting that the JCC-led climate-related tasks were needed before the NP was made.

RECOMMENDED: that the report of the Project Manager be noted.

## **6. A GENERAL APPROACH TO PLANNING PROPOSALS**

Cllr Baker introduced this item. He considered that care was needed to ensure that any BANP representation on planning proposals must be agreed by the NPJCC beforehand, and that participating councils should be made aware of this. He suggested that planning training for councillors could include the NP to help reinforce this message.

The Chairman advised that clerks needed to be engaged in the NP so that they could incorporate it into advice to councillors.

The Clerk said he would consider how best to achieve this, alongside the planning training session for councillors that he was arranging through DAPTC.

## **7. AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROPOSAL**

The Town Clerk summarised a report circulated with the agenda, outlining proposals for the provision of affordable social housing in the Bridport area. The Town Council had considered the proposal and had identified a need to involve NP participant councils, and had requested that the NPJCC identify any potentially suitable exception sites.

Members commented as follows:

- Cllr Streatfeild suggested that the area alongside the proposed Vearse Farm development that had not yet been the subject of housing proposals could be considered.
- Cllr Baker said that the process of drafting the NP had included five years looking at possible sites and had identified none. He expressed concern that to propose sites at this stage could undermine that work.

- The Project Manager advised that the NP strategy was to deliver affordable housing on existing identified sites. He suggested that the proposer might usefully liaise with Community Land Trusts.

**8. BUDGET**

The Project Manager reported that the cost to date of design and printing of the submission draft of the Neighbourhood Plan had been covered by the available remaining budget.

AGREED: that the latest position on the budget be noted.

**9. OTHER INFORMATION UPDATE ITEMS**

The Clerk reported that Dorset Council had launched a consultation on a proposed Statement of Community Involvement, and he encouraged councils to send responses. He would be producing a draft and would circulate this to BLAP area councils.

**10. DATE FOR NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Chairman advised that he would not be available for meetings from the end of September until December.

Members were minded to agree a schedule of meetings, which could be adapted or added to as necessary dependent on actions needed to progress the NP.

RECOMMENDED: that NPJCC meetings be scheduled for the first Thursday of each month, starting in August 2019.

The meeting closed at 11.32am.