

Minutes of an INQUORATE meeting of the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL COUNCIL JOINT COMMITTEE (NPJCC) held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday 3 October 2019 at 10.00am.

PRESENT: Councillors: Phil Lathey (Allington Parish Council), Colin Baker (Bradpole Parish Council), Chris Dobbs (Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council) and Dave Rickard (Bridport Town Council).

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

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Cllr Colin Baker was elected as Chairman for the meeting.

It was noted that as the meeting was inquorate, decisions made would be regarded as recommendations to the next quorate meeting, subject to any urgent matters such as the response to the Examiner's report being agreed under delegation.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ian Bark (Bridport Town Council), Sarah Williams (Bridport Town Council), Paul Bowditch (Allington Parish Council), Amanda Streatfeild (Symondsburry Parish Council) and Jim Basker (Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council). Apologies were also received from Phyllida Culpin (Chair of the NPJCC Steering Group).

3. MINUTES

RECOMMENDED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 August 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

4. RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S 'FACT CHECK' REPORT

The Chairman thanked all those who contributed to the draft response to the Fact Check Report, which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Project Manager advised that the Examiner's report was positive overall, in particular as the BANP was deemed to have met the statutory requirements subject to proposed amendments. The key issue to be addressed was the removal of Watton Hill as a designated Open Green Space and factual information had been collated in response to this. Other amendments had the effect of diluting certain policies.

Members considered each element of the draft response in turn, and

RECOMMENDED: that the draft response to the Examiner's Fact Check Report be approved for submission, subject to inclusion of a reference under

Policy H9 to the proposed project being undertaken regardless of whether it was accepted for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Phil Lathey left the meeting at this point.

5. PREPARING FOR POST EXAMINATION

The Project Manager reported on the next steps which would be to make changes to the BANP once the Examiner's final report was received, produce the final version of the BANP, and promote participation in the referendum. He advised that for expediency and control this would be best undertaken by Bridport Town Council on behalf of the NPJCC.

Members considered:

- Whether the Examiner and Dorset Council would need to be engaged in the final changes prior to submission to Dorset Council for approval. The Project Manager advised that it would need to be a collaborative effort led by the Town Council and agreed with Dorset Council.
- The possible timetable for a referendum. The Project Manager said there was no certainty over this. The BANP could be finalised by mid-November and then it would be for Dorset Council to agree the document and then schedule a referendum. Members asked that Dorset Council be pressed to give early attention to finalising and agreeing the document.
- The boundaries for promotional activity prior to a referendum. The Clerk advised that there could be no promotion of a 'yes' vote and that promotion should encourage participation in the referendum.

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

6. BUDGET

The Town Clerk reported that the available budget remained at £135.89 as reported at the previous meeting. Given the earlier recommendation to oversee further changes to the draft BANP locally, funding would need to be provided for re-design and re-printing, estimated at £800 to £1,000.

RECOMMENDED: that an approach be made to Dorset Council to assist with the costs of re-design and re-printing of the BANP.

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk seeks to agree funding under delegation to underwrite the costs of re-design and re-printing of the BANP.

Members considered funding for BANP activity in the longer term and the role of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). It was recognised that this would need to be tabled for future discussion.

RECOMMENDED: that a budget planning report be tabled at a future NPJCC meeting to consider future costs and incorporating CIL policies for participating parishes.

It was noted that referendum publicity costs would need to be considered.

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

7. OTHER INFORMATION UPDATE ITEMS

The Chairman reported that Cllr Basker had spoken to him about Jelly Fields. Cllr Basker had advised that Dorset Council was looking to transfer the land to Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council, and future maintenance funding would be an issue.

AGREED: that Bridport Town Council will make contact with Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council to consider the approach to a possible transfer of Jelly Fields to local ownership.

7. DATE FOR NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meetings to be held on 7 November 2019 at 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 11.26am.