

Notes of an INQUORATE meeting of the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL COUNCIL JOINT COMMITTEE (NPJCC) held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday 9 January 2020 at 10.00am.

PRESENT: Councillors: Colin Baker (Bradpole Parish Council), Chris Dobbs (Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council), Phil Lathey (Allington Parish Council), Ian Bark (Bridport Town Council) and Jim Basker (Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council).

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Amanda Streatfeild (Symondsburry Parish Council).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

RECOMMENDED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2019 and 7th November be agreed as a correct record.

4. PREPARING FOR THE REFERENDUM

The Project Manager updated members on progress towards a referendum and introduced a report on proposed actions. Dorset Council had advised that the date of the referendum would be 27 February 2020, although this remained subject to written confirmation.

The report outlined arrangements for preparation of the referendum, campaigning to promote voting and rules on expenses, and proposed a range of actions. Members discussed the detail of an advisory leaflet and its distribution within the BANP area, informational posters and banners, and use of the media and social media to publicise the referendum.

RECOMMENDED: that the actions proposed in the report be agreed, subject to:

- a) There being no actions prior to Dorset Council formally announcing the referendum;
- b) Investigation of circulation of the leaflet with poll cards;
- c) The leaflet being A4 folded in size and to include prominent details of the BANP web page address;
- d) There being no promotional banners;

- e) Arrangement of information stands at the Bridport Community Fair on 1 February 2020, and in the town centre on the Saturday prior to the referendum; and
- f) Each parish deciding its own arrangements for promotion of the referendum on social media.

Members considered funding for the referendum campaign. The Clerk advised that a budget of £135.89 remained available, and that Bridport Town Council would underwrite costs above this to ensure that the referendum campaign could proceed. However, participating parishes would need to consider further contributions. Bridport Town Council had incorporated an annual contribution into its draft budget to meet its share of a £5,000 annual fund apportioned across the participating parishes, as recommended at the JCC meeting of November 2019. Details of the amounts apportioned across the five parishes by 2019/20 tax base were circulated.

RECOMMENDED: that NPJCC members ensure agreement of contributions by their councils, to a £5,000 annual fund apportioned according to the tax base.

5. BRIDPORT AREA TREE PLAN

The Project Manager reported on a proposed tree plan for Bridport:

- The project was supported by a grant from the AONB.
- Maps for the Bridport area would be produced within three months.
- The aim was to stimulate thinking and provide advice.
- The plan would need to reach beyond Bridport.

The Project Manager agreed to share the information with parishes and to circulate a brief.

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

Cllr Lathey left the meeting at this point and did not return

6. BUDGET

The Chair advised that as this matter had been considered under minute 4, no further discussion or decision was needed.

7. OTHER INFORMATION UPDATE ITEMS

The Project Manager asked members to ensure that hard copies of the BANP had been collected by each participating council.

Cllr Dobbs left the meeting at this point and did not return

Cllr Colin Baker advised that the Mid-Cherwell NP had been made and that subsequently there had been a meeting with Planning Officers to co-ordinate interpretation.

Cllr Baker further advised that the Conservation Officer had issued a scathing report on proposed development at the Pymore Inn, and that a retrospective planning application had been submitted for unauthorised development at 99 East Road, to which Bradpole Parish Council had lodged an objection.

Cllr Baker also reported that Bradpole Parish Council was producing a Climate Action Plan.

Cllr Basker advised that Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council was still organising itself following the 2019 election.

8. DATE FOR NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meetings to be held on 6 February 2020 if needed for the purposes of the referendum, and/or on 5 March 2020, both at 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 12.00pm.