

MINUTES of a VIRTUAL meeting (GoToMeeting ID: 986-043-829) of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held on Monday 7 September 2020 at 5.30pm.

PRESENT Cllr Dave Bolwell (in the chair)

Cllrs: Geoffrey Ackerman Anne Rickard
Sarah Carney Dave Rickard
Kelvin Clayton Sarah Williams
Julian Jones

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk), Richard Brown (Dorset National Park Team) and Catherine Searle (member of the public).

PUBLIC FORUM

Catherine Searle addressed the meeting objecting to planning application WD/D/20/001706. Ms Searle had written to town councillors prior to the meeting setting out her concerns, and added that she was concerned that:

- The impact on the setting of 32 Bedford Terrace had not properly been taken into account.
- Local Plan policy ENV4 had not been fully considered by the Conservation Officer, and there had been no site visit.
- Government guidance had not been followed.
- The applicant had made no assessment of the impact of the proposed development.
- There were no plans showing the rear elevation as viewed from 32 Bedford Terrace. The application could not be properly assessed without this.

The Chairman thanked Ms Searle for her address.

30. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Barry Irvine.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

32. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that, subject to the correction of the Chairman's gender from "he" to "she" at the second paragraph of the Public Forum, the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27 July 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and that the Chairman should sign the minutes at the earliest available opportunity.

33. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED: that application A3, WD/D/20/001706 be considered first. This included consideration of ENCL: 3527, a letter submitted by Ms Catherine Searle.

Following consideration of planning application WD/D/20/001706, it was

RESOLVED: that item 7 on the agenda, Dorset National Park, be brought forward to this point in the meeting.

Discussion of agenda item 7 is shown at minute 36 below.

RESOLVED: that the comments set out in column 4 of the attached [Schedule A](#) be forwarded to the planning authority.

34. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3526.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

35. MAGNA HOUSING

The Town Clerk reported that no representative of Magna Housing had been made available to attend the meeting, to discuss disposal of properties.

RESOLVED: that this item be deferred.

36. DORSET NATIONAL PARK

Richard Brown of the Dorset National Park Team gave a presentation on the potential benefits of National Park status for Dorset.

The committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of National Park status, but did not resolve a view on the possibility of such status. There was a recognition of advantages and disadvantages and more understanding would be needed, before a conclusion could be reached.

The Chairman thanked Mr Brown for his presentation.

37. CONSULTATIONS

The Town Clerk reported that a draft response to Government planning consultations was in preparation and comments had been sought from councillors. A response to a Dorset Council Licensing Policy consultation was to be prepared.

RESOLVED: that a draft response to Government consultations on reforms to the planning system be considered at Full Council.

RESOLVED: that a response to the Dorset Council Licensing Policy consultation be agreed under delegation by the Committee Chairman, Leader and Town Clerk.

38. COMMUNICATIONS AND ONGOING ISSUES

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council had agreed to assist with logistical support to Bridport Medical Centre for the provision of drive-through flu clinics.

Cllr Sarah Carney asked whether a date had been set for the Vearse Farm Working Group meeting. The Town Clerk advised that it would be held on 21 September 2020 at 11.00am.

Cllr Dave Rickard reported that a meeting with Neon Bar in East Street had been arranged.

The meeting closed at **7.42pm**.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on Monday 28 September 2020