

Minutes of a meeting of the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL COUNCIL JOINT COMMITTEE (NPJCC) held virtually on Thursday 24 September 2020 at 9.30am.

PRESENT: Councillors: Pelham Allen (Symondsburry Parish Council), Colin Baker (Bradpole Parish Council), Ian Bark (Bridport Town Council), Jim Basker (Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council) and Gill Smith (Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council).

Also present: David Dixon (Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer) and Will Austin (Town Clerk).

1. ELECTION OF JCC CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED: that Cllr Colin Baker be elected to serve as the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Joint Councils Committee for the municipal year 2020-2021.

Cllr Baker chaired the meeting from this point.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Pelham Allen be elected to serve as the Vice-Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Joint Councils Committee for the municipal year 2020-2021.

The Chairman acknowledged the work of Cllr Amanda Streatfeild on the Neighbourhood Plan to date as a sensible and ever-present member of the Joint Council Committee. He asked that his thanks be recorded and passed on to Cllr Streatfeild.

2. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the notes of the inquorate meeting held on 14 May 2020 be agreed as a correct record, and the recommendations therein be approved.

RESOLVED: that agenda item 7, Implementing the Neighbourhood Plan – Steering Group, be brought forward to this point in the meeting.

5. IMPLEMENTING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – STEERING GROUP

The Chairman summarised the six responses received to the call for Steering Group membership, five of which were summarised in ENCL: 3532.

Members considered the responses and noted the maximum membership of nine. Members also discussed a need for experience in the areas of the local economy and youth.

RESOLVED: that Paul Everall, Sal Robinson, Raja Jarrah, Phyllida Culpin, Jim Tigg and Nigel Mawditt be appointed as members of the Steering Group.

RESOLVED: that Bridport Business Chamber be approached to nominate a member of the Steering Group.

RESOLVED: that youth representation on the Steering Group be incorporated into discussions regarding a possible youth forum for the Bridport area.

7. **IMPLEMENTING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – MEETING WITH DORSET COUNCIL**

The Chairman summarised a meeting held in May with planning staff and councillors from Dorset Council. He advised that the meeting had been useful, and that the intention had been to develop a Neighbourhood Plan monitoring process. He was encouraged by the use of the Plan in the determination of planning applications.

The Project Manager advised that Dorset Council was in the process of merging the existing planning systems of the former county and district councils, and it was hoped that backdated decision notices would be received after this had been completed. He was hopeful that the discussions would provide the basis for a monitoring process.

The Chairman advised that the process appeared to be working, although some gaps remained to be filled. He further reported on discussions at the meeting regarding changes to the five-year land supply and the impact of reducing the influence of the Neighbourhood Plan after two years. Some councils were reviewing their plans to overcome this and the JCC would need to consider its approach. The Local Plan consultation had been deferred to Spring 2021, which left the JCC 16 to 17 months to address the issue.

Members discussed the status of the existing Local Plan. The Chairman advised that a 2016 review document was in effect redundant. The Town Clerk advised that the current document in force was the 2015 Local Plan. The Chairman clarified that the extent of influence of the Neighbourhood Plan over the Local Plan was a matter of the timing of the respective documents.

It was hoped there would be a further meeting with Dorset Council in the New Year.

RESOLVED: that the report of the meeting held in May with planning staff and councillors from Dorset Council be noted.

6. **IMPLEMENTING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – PROJECTS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Project Manager, ENCL: 3531. The Project Manager summarised the report, which provided updates on nine projects, which were either included in the Neighbourhood Plan or had a relationship with it.

The Town Clerk advised that the indoor skate park had opened.

Cllr Pelham Allen asked whether the landowner had been contacted regarding tree planting at Eype Down, an area identified in the Bridport Area Tree Plan. The Project Manager advised that the plan was indicative and landowners had not been contacted, but feedback was needed. The maps were available for use by parishes in this respect.

The Chairman noted that community led housing was to be considered by the Vearse Farm Working Group, and that the JCC must be involved in any Neighbourhood Plan project-related meetings.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Colin Baker be elected as the JCC representative to the Vearse Farm Working Group.

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

8. BUDGET

The Chairman advised that an operational budget was required for the JCC, along with a project budget.

The Town Clerk presented a draft operational budget as shown at Appendix 1 to these minutes. This assumed four JCC meetings per annum, and requirements for technical advice, public information and a need to build a fund for a review of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Members considered the budget, the value of the Neighbourhood Plan and the JCC, and how council contributions might be configured for the remainder of current financial year and future years.

RESOLVED: that participating councils be asked to consider a 50% contribution for the financial year 2020/21, and 100% with effect from the financial year 2021/22.

Cllr Ian Bark asked that a column be added to the draft budget.

RESOLVED: that project costs be included for discussion at the next meeting.

Cllr Jim Basker advised that Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council members had asked what the value of the Neighbourhood Plan was to them.

RESOLVED: that an offer of a presentation on the benefits of the Neighbourhood Plan be made to Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council.

The Project Manager reported that Dorset Council had requested minuted approval of the accuracy of the digital maps it had provided.

The Project Manager advised that he would contact Cllr Jim Basker in respect of a specific matter regarding an open space in Bothenhampton & Walditch parish.

RESOLVED: that the digital maps provided by Dorset Council be agreed as accurate and adopted.

9. CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM

Consideration was given to a report on the planning system, ENCL: 3533. The Chairman advised that there was a need to respond urgently to a consultation on changes to the current planning system, and that more time was available to consider a consultation on the Planning White Paper.

The Chairman further advised of a consultation in respect of accessibility for disabled people with a deadline of 1 December 2020, which may be a matter for Steering Group consideration.

Members thanked Jim Tigg for a thorough briefing on the planning system changes provided by Jim Tigg.

The Project Manager advised that he would be happy to consult informally on the Planning White Paper consultation, with a draft response to be prepared for the next meeting. He considered that there was insufficient time to respond to the consultation on changes to the current planning system, and that this would be a matter for individual parishes.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Project Manager be noted and that a draft response the Planning White Paper consultation be considered at the next meeting.

10. OTHER INFORMATION UPDATE ITEMS

No other information update items were raised.

11. DATE FOR NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED: that the Project Manager will circulate a Doodle Poll to determine the date of the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.00am.

Appendix 1 – Draft Operational JCC Budget

Indicative Operational JCC Budget:

Item	Expenditure	Income
Staff Costs	£3,700	
Consultancy	£500	
Training	£200	
Stationery, Marketing, Printing	£300	
Meeting Costs	£200	
NP Review	£1,000	
Town & Parish Contributions		£5,900
TOTAL	£5,900	£5,900

Indicative Council Contributions:

Parish	Tax Base	Tax Base %	Contribution	Half Year
Allington	298.1	5.16%	£304.49	£152.24
Bothenhampton & Walditch	989.3	17.13%	£1,010.50	£505.25
Bradpole	963.2	16.68%	£983.84	£491.92
Bridport	3007.9	52.07%	£3,072.37	£1,536.18
Symondsburry	517.7	8.96%	£528.80	£264.40
TOTAL	5776.2	100.00%	£5,900.00	£2,950.00