

MINUTES of a VIRTUAL meeting (GoToMeeting ID: 942-136-021) of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held on Monday 28 September 2020 at 5.30pm.

PRESENT Cllr Dave Bolwell (in the chair)

Cllrs:	Sarah Carney	Anne Rickard
	Kelvin Clayton	Dave Rickard
	Barry Irvine	Sarah Williams
	Julian Jones	

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk).

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

No members of the public attended to speak at the Public Forum.

### **39. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Geoffrey Ackerman.

### **40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **41. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That subject to minute 36 reading as follows:

“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.”

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 September 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and that the Chairman should sign the minutes at the earliest available opportunity.

Members discussed whether the issue of National Park status should be considered at Full Council at this time, or once the government’s proposed changes to the planning system were finalised.

Members discussed how best to attract Magna Housing Association to a future meeting, and the Town Clerk agreed to draft a submission on behalf of the Chairman and Leader.

#### **42. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Members discussed a possible standard wording for 'neutral' comments on planning applications. No agreement was reached and the Town Clerk undertook to consult members informally before tabling a proposed draft wording at a future meeting.

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

#### **43. PLANNING DECISIONS**

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3539.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

#### **44. HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP**

RESOLVED: that the date and time of the next meeting, Thursday 15 October at 2.30pm, be noted.

#### **45. VEARSE FARM WORKING GROUP**

The Town Clerk summarised the notes of a meeting of the working group held on 21 September 2020. The meeting had considered its future aims and membership, updates from Hallam Land and Dorset Council Planning, and issues and actions arising. The next meeting would be held in six to eight weeks' time dependent on progress with the agreed actions, and the notes of the meeting would be circulated.

Members considered the possible content of a press release to highlight the group's work, potential tensions between community aspirations and economic viability, the impact of Dorset Council's delegation arrangements on democratic accountability in determining planning applications, community governance arrangements, the desire for an 'exemplar scheme' to gain community support, and the issuing of a press release.

Members also considered future membership issues, priorities for the group and detailed questions for submission to Hallam Land and Dorset Council.

RESOLVED: that further discussion be tabled for the next committee agenda in order that members have prior sight of the meeting notes.

RESOLVED: that Magna Housing be invited to the next working group meeting, and that representatives of those in housing need and of young people be considered by the working group for inclusion as and when appropriate.

RESOLVED: that the priorities for the group be as discussed at the working group meeting: Affordable housing, affordable industrial units, Community Land Trust involvement, open spaces, and design matters.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Carney should redraft detailed questions for submission to Dorset Council and Hallam Land.

**46. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Town Clerk reported that a Government consultation on changes to housing allocation aspects of the planning system would be considered at Full Council on 29 September 2020.

Cllr Dave Rickard reminded members that consultation on wider changes to the planning system would be considered at a later date. He advised that there was a need to stress the need for a proactive planning system.

Cllr Sarah Carney reported a rumour that up to 70 Conservative MPs were considering rebelling against the changes. She considered that the proposed methodology for assessment of housing need was not objective, used out of date statistics and grossly overstated the number of houses needed.

Cllr Sarah Carney further asked whether it would be possible to invite the emerging Community Land Trust to address the committee. The Town Clerk advised he would liaise with the Trust.

The Chairman reminded members that it would be helpful to highlight any significant concerns with the draft committee minutes prior to the meeting.

The meeting closed at **6.44pm**.

**The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on 26 October 2020**