

Minutes of a meeting of the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL COUNCIL JOINT COMMITTEE (NPJCC) held virtually on Thursday 17 December 2020 at 9.30am.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Colin Baker (Bradpole Parish Council)

COUNCILLORS: Jim Basker (Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council), Pelham Allen (Symondsburry Parish Council), and Ian Bark (Bridport Town Council).

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

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

Cllr Jim Basker advised that Cllr Gill Smith had resigned from Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council, and that we was now the main and only NPJCC representative from the Parish Council.

The Chairman noted that Allington Parish Council had not sent a representative to the meeting since March 2020.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2020 be agreed as a correct record, and that the Chair should sign these at the earliest available opportunity.

4. IMPLEMENTING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – PROJECTS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report updating members on project delivery ENCL: 3571. The Project Manager invited comments from members, who discussed:

- The availability of funding from Symondsburry Parish Council for cycling initiatives in the area. Cllr Pelham Allen asked if this was suitable for project 13. The Project Manager advised that this project was seeking contributions from developers and that any available funding might be more appropriate to project 11, the Access & Movement Study, for which consultants had been commissioned and which was to be led by the Town Centre Working Group.

- Arrangements for the Town Centre Working Group, which the Town Clerk advised were under review including the membership. It was likely the NPJCC would be approached to provide a representative. Members discussed the possible involvement of Nigel Maudit and Paul Everall.
- Maintenance of footpaths. Bradpole and Symondsburry Parish Councils had been working with Dorset Council on this.
- The development of a Parish Plan by Bothenhampston & Walditch Parish Council, which Cllr Jim Basker advised had noted that residents have to cross the A35 and that there was no provision for a cycle path. The Project Manager advised that this was appropriate for consideration by the Access & Movement Study.
- The drafting of terms of reference for projects 16, 17, 18 and 19 by Jim Tigg of the Steering Group. The Chairman thanked the Steering Group for their work on these projects and advised that the drafts would need to be tabled for consideration by the NPJCC as the lead for the projects.

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

5. **IMPLEMENTING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – MONITORING PLANNING DECISIONS**

The Project Manager reported that he had yet to hear from Dorset Council regarding support for monitoring of use of the Neighbourhood Plan in planning decisions, and that other means of monitoring would now need to be considered. Sal Robinson of the Steering Group had agreed to provide a monthly monitoring report with a ‘traffic light’ system for use of the Plan in decisions.

Members considered:

- An aide memoire developed by the Chairman for Bradpole Parish Council to remind members of the key issues for consideration in planning applications. With an accompanying spreadsheet this was now being used to record the use of Neighbourhood Plan policies. The Chairman offered to circulate the documents for use by other councils. Arrangements for Symondsburry and Bothenhampston & Walditch Parish Councils were being developed.
- The development of a ‘quick reference’ list of policies. The Town Clerk advised that he would circulate a previously drafted list of all Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan policies.
- A monthly digest being produced by Sal Robinson, which would be shared with the NPJCC.

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

6. **LOCAL PLAN**

The Chairman reported that he had viewed the virtual Dorset Council Cabinet meeting on 8 December 2020 which had outlined arrangements for consultation on a new draft Local Plan. He had also briefed Bradpole Parish Council the day before and had circulated links to the now published

individual sections of the draft, pointing out the most relevant parts. He considered the draft to be positive and respectful of the Neighbourhood Plan, and had contacted the Dorset Council Cabinet member who was keen for parish councils and other bodies to engage.

The Chairman asked members to consider the NPJCC's approach. Members considered:

- The possible impact of the Planning for the Future white paper.
- The extent of focus on the Bridport area. The Chairman advised that one section was devoted to the area. The Project Manager advised that it included the proposed 170-home extension to the Vearse Farm development.
- Whether or not a NPJCC consultation response should comment only on the implications for the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The need for a summary guide to assist councils in responding to the consultation.
- The need to focus on climate-related matters as a specific issue.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk and Project Manager liaise regarding the provision of a summary to assist in developing consultation responses.

7. STEERING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consideration was given to the revised terms of reference, ENCL: 3572.

Members considered the draft revisions, and

RESOLVED: that the terms of reference for the Steering Group be agreed as tabled.

8. BUDGET

The Chairman introduced a report on control of NPJCC operational expenditure, ENCL: 3573, setting out issues around the certainty and control of future expenditure.

Cllr Jim Basker advised that Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council was looking for financial certainty and a limit on future expansion. The Council had agreed its contributions and a limit of three years.

Members considered a delegation to the Town Clerk for expenditure and

RESOLVED: that a delegation of a maximum of £200 be granted to the Town Clerk for NPJCC operational expenditure.

Members discussed the use of the parish tax base as a basis for calculation of council contributions. The Town Clerk agreed to circulate the recently received tax base figures for 2021/22.

9. OTHER INFORMATION UPDATE ITEMS

Cllr Jim Basker reported that Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council had completed a parish survey and research was now being undertaken. The survey had not highlighted anything unusual and his focus was now on communication with residents.

Cllr Pelham Allen reported that Symondsburry Parish Council has made a request to Bridport Town Council to consider a joint committee to consider Vearse Farm planning issues.

The Chairman reported that:

- The Dorset Council housing list was to be reviewed in January and people were being asked to reapply.
- The social housing white paper was being progressed 'as is', without consultation.
- Dorset AONB were receiving a grant of £240,000 to restore landscape features.
- Bradpole Parish Council had received a positive response from the Dorset Council flood team.
- The Vision 2030 Facebook and Twitter accounts were still in existence and needed to be removed. The Project Manager advised that these were owned by a person no longer connected with the Neighbourhood Plan. Members noted that NPJCC had previously asked this person to remove them. The Town Clerk advised he would write again.

The Town Clerk reported that Dorset Council had notified him of a community governance review in 2021.

10. DATE FOR NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED: that the meetings for 2021 be held on 4 March, 3 June, 2 September and 2 December 2021, all at 10.00am.

The Chairman reminded members to submit items for the agenda at least ten days prior to the meeting date, and that the meetings would continue to be held virtually for the time being.

The meeting closed at 11.09am.