

Minutes of a meeting of the BRIDPORT AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN JOINT COUNCILS COMMITTEE (JCC) held virtually on Thursday 4 March 2021 at 10.00am.

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: Paul Hartmann (attending as a member of the public), Paul Overall (BANP Steering Group), David Dixon (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer) and Will Austin (Town Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Phil Lathey (Allington Parish Council).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2020 be agreed as a correct record, and that the Chair should sign these at the earliest available opportunity.

The Chairman noted that he had agreed with the Clerk that draft minutes would be seen by him prior to any other circulation.

Cllr Pelham Allen reported that Bridport Town Council had declined a request from Symondsburry Parish Council to form a joint committee, following advice.

4. ARRANGEMENTS FOR ROTATING THE CHAIR OF THE JCC

The Chairman reported that he had discussed this matter with Cllr Pelham Allen as Symondsburry Parish Council member and the next Chairman of the JCC. This was to be considered at the first JCC meeting after all Annual Parish/Town Council meetings. The Vice Chairman should be from Allington Parish Council. Cllr Pelham Allen had spoken to them.

Cllr Allen clarified that he had spoken to Cllr Phil Lathey, whose work commitments meant he was not able to attend. He had spoken separately to Cllr Jim Basker, and Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council was happy to provide a Vice Chairman. Allington Parish Council was unable to meet virtually and had not met since prior to the first lockdown.

The Chairman reported that the Allington Parish Council representative had seen all communications and was happy.

The Town Clerk reminded members that there was a need for Allington Parish Council to conduct its Annual Parish Council meeting before the first JCC meeting of the municipal year 2021/22 could proceed.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Chairman be noted.

5. IMPLEMENTING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – PROJECTS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report updating members on project delivery, ENCL: 3599. The Project Manager invited comments from members, who discussed:

- A request to the Steering Group to highlight changes from the previous version for comparison. The Project Manager advised he would implement this.
- Progress with a town centre access and movement study. An interactive platform would be made available in the next week, and the Town Centre Working Group was expected to meet twice between April and June to consider options.
- Progress with the facilities for young people through the new indoor skate park and with community led housing through the establishment of a new community land trust.
- A correction required to Project 15 to reinstate a reference to the JCC as project lead and for monitoring.

RESOLVED: that reference to the JCC be reinstated at Project 15.

- The delaying impact on Project 15 while waiting for the Government white paper to be resolved.
- Terms of reference required from the Steering Group for three projects.

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

6. IMPLEMENTING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – MONITORING PLANNING DECISIONS

The Project Manager reported on difficulties for the Steering Group in monitoring decisions, following changes to the Dorset Council planning portal. The Chairman advised that the system was in transition and it was possible to access reports and decision notices. Complaints had been lodged with Dorset Council. There had been no problems with planning applications for Bradpole.

Members considered the arrangements for monitoring, including:

- The number of different bodies carrying out monitoring and whether this needed to be the case.

- Limited resources available to the Steering Group for monitoring and whether information could be provided by parishes, as was the case with Bradpole. Cllr Jim Basker advised he would need to consult with the Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Clerk on whether this would be possible.
- What the monitoring information was used for. The Chairman advised he was not entirely sure, but that it monitored Dorset Council decisions against the Neighbourhood Plan. The Project Manager advised that the information would inform a review of the Neighbourhood Plan and was an important part of the evidence base. The Chairman advised there would be an annual monitoring report.
- Which decisions needed to be included. Cllr Jim Basker advised that only two had been of a scale to justify a reference to the Neighbourhood Plan and both were well documented.

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

7. **LOCAL PLAN**

Consideration was given to the draft JCC response to the Dorset Council Local Plan Consultation, ENCL: 3600.

The Chairman advised that members had met and exchanged emails leading to the draft, which was written from a JCC perspective and no-one else's. He reported that Dorset Council Cllr David Walsh had asked for as wide a range of responses as possible. The Chairman had encouraged parishes to write their own responses, and advised that the Allington Parish Council JCC member was in agreement with the draft. Cllr Pelham Allen advised that the Allington Parish Council member had not specifically endorsed the response.

Cllr Ian Bark reported that Bridport Town Council had agreed its response, which was broadly comparable. There was a potential conflict relating to the proposed 170 additional homes at Vearse Farm, about which the Town Council had expressed concern in respect of the impact of the additional development and infrastructure provisions.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED: that the Chairman should redraft and circulate the response to JCC members for approval under delegation, and incorporating a reference to the Bridport Town Council comments in respect of the proposed 170 additional homes at Vearse Farm.

Cllr Pelham Allen thanked the Chairman for his work in drafting the response.

8. **DORSET COUNCIL COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, notifying a forthcoming Community Governance Review, ENCL: 3601.

The Chairman advised that the notification had been issued to clerks during the previous week, and he considered it important to report to the JCC. Reviews should be held every 10 to 15 years, according to a set standard.

Paul Hartmann left the meeting at this point.

The Chairman further advised that the review would be triggered in July 2021 and could affect the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Cllr Pelham Allen advised that the review was likely to have a significant impact on the boundary. Symondsbury Parish Council and Bridport Town Council would engage. He asked what the JCC involvement would be. The Chairman advised that there was a need to preserve parish identity and the information was reported, so that parishes could prepare.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Town Clerk be noted.

9. BUDGET

The Town Clerk reported that there had been no new expenditure or income since the last meeting. The Chairman noted that invoices had been sent to Parish Councils for contributions to the JCC budget, and Bradpole Parish Council had approved its contribution for payment.

The project budget would be considered at a later date.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Town Clerk be noted.

10. OTHER INFORMATION UPDATE ITEMS

Cllr Pelham Allen reported that Bridport Town Council had declined a request from Symondsbury Parish Council to form a joint committee, following advice.

Cllr Jim Basker reported that the Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Plan was nearing maturity. A loss of councillors might affect the ability to deliver the plan.

The Chairman reported £990,000 was held by Dorset Council in unallocated Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds. A councillor had raised this and had asked about community input. This had been mentioned to the Town Clerk in respect of project funding. Cllr Pelham Allen advised that the Symondsbury Parish Clerk had been asked to check regarding contributions for Symondsbury Parish Council. The Chairman advised that amounts sometimes changed after planning permission was granted, for example as a result of a self-build exemption. He had queried whether there was a better way of managing compliance. Cllr Jim Basker said he assumed the funds were for 'shovel ready' projects that were suitable for funding. The Chairman advised that projects would need to fit with CIL criteria, and there was a link with the Neighbourhood Plan which aimed to retain and improve community facilities.

11. **DATE FOR NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: that the next meeting be held on 3 June 2021 at 10.00am.

Cllr Pelham Allen reported that he would discuss issues for the meeting with the Chairman, the Project Manager and the Town Clerk.

The meeting closed at 11.29am.