

MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 7 June 2021 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Dave Bolwell (in the Chair from item 2 onwards)

Cllrs: Geoffrey Ackerman	Barry Irvine
Ian Bark	Julian Jones
Sarah Carney	Anne Rickard
Kelvin Clayton	Dave Rickard

ALSO PRESENT Will Austin (Town Clerk) and one member of the public.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: that Cllr Dave Bolwell be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year 2021/2022.

Councillor Dave Bolwell assumed the Chair.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: that Cllr Ian Bark be elected Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year 2021/2022.

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public spoke at the Public Forum.

3. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Geoff Ackerman declared an interest in planning application P/HOU/2021/00642 as an acquaintance of the property owners. He left the meeting for the duration of the discussion and voting on the application.

The Chairman noted that one member of the public was in attendance to hear discussion of agenda item 12 (Communications). To avoid a long wait for this discussion and with the agreement of the meeting, it was

RESOLVED: that agenda item 12 (Communications) be brought forward for consideration at this point in the meeting.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

The Town Clerk read an email received from a resident, expressing concern about the shopfront signage arrangements at Gunz Barbers on East Street, and asking whether the signage required planning consent, as it was on a listed building. The Clerk advised that he had contacted the business owner, who had replied advising that he

had contacted the Planning Authority and had followed their advice. Members considered the aesthetics of the signage, the listed building status, and relevant planning policy and procedure. The Chairman advised that he would contact the Planning Department to obtain advice on the appropriate procedure to be followed.

The member of the public left the meeting at this point.

The Chairman further reported that he had been advised of delays in processing of land searches by Dorset Council, due to a systems integration project, other system problems and a lack of resources. The backlog was reported to be of three to four months. He asked that any issues be reported to him.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26 April 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED: that the recommendations set out in Column 4 of the attached [schedule A](#) be forwarded to Dorset Council.

8. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3622.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

The Chairman advised that he would enquire regarding enforcement action, in respect of The Customs House, West Bay.

8. VEARSE FARM WORKING GROUP

The Town Clerk summarised the notes of the last meeting and subsequent activity in relation to a Design Review Panel, and advised that the next meeting would take place on 15 June 2021. He further advised that an email had been received from one of the developers, expressing concern about the responsiveness of Dorset Council Highways in taking forward proposals for the Miles Cross junction, and that the developers had advised of a change of name for the development to Foundry Lea.

The Clerk further advised that Cllr Dave Bolwell had stepped down as a member of the Working Group, and that a replacement should be elected.

Members requested sight of the outcomes of the Design Review Panel.

A discussion about how best to engage Dorset Council in the Town Council's efforts in respect of the development. Cllrs Dave Rickard, Dave Bolwell, Kelvin Clayton and Sarah Williams agreed to consider this further following the meeting.

Members offered their thanks to David Dixon (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer) for his work in support of the Working Group's activities.

RESOLVED: that the notes of the working group meeting on 7 May 2021 be noted.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Julian Jones be elected as a member of the Vearse Farm Working Group, replacing Cllr Dave Bolwell.

9. TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED: that the notes of the working group meeting on 20 May 2021 be noted.

RESOLVED: that the existing membership of the Town Centre Working Group be reaffirmed.

10. HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

RESOLVED: that the terms of reference for the Working Group be confirmed and the dates for the Working Group meetings be approved, as tabled with the agenda.

11. CLIMATE FIRST PLANNING POLICY

The Town Clerk reported that the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan included an action to develop a 'climate first' planning policy. Whilst this was the responsibility of the Planning Committee, a recent meeting of the Climate Action Sub Committee had requested that this matter be taken forward. The Clerk reminded members that any policy should avoid a situation where members had effectively predetermined their position on planning applications. This could be achieved, for example by reference to a predisposition or similar.

Members considered:

- Relevant national and local planning policy;
- Challenging the current interpretation of local policy by Dorset Council;
- Drafting a predisposition-based policy;
- Influencing Dorset Council on delivering its declaration of a climate emergency;
- Challenging delegated decision-making; and
- Developing a register of planning refusals for energy reduction measures.

Cllr Barry Irvine left the meeting at this point.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should draft a position statement, policy and objectives for further consideration.

The meeting closed at **9.24pm**.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on 28 June 2021