

MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 28 June 2021 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Dave Bolwell (in the chair)

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

Also Present: Cllrs Rose Allwork and Karen Hunt (virtually), Will Austin (Town Clerk), David Dixon (Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer - virtually), Finlay McNab (Streets Reimagined), 8 members of the public, and two representatives of the press.

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no speakers at the Public Forum.

### **12. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sarah Carney.

### **13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Town Clerk reported that he was related to the applicant for application P/LBC/2021/01197 and that once the plans had been displayed he would leave the meeting for the duration of the discussion and decision-making for this application.

### **14. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 June 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Town Clerk reported that the Chairman had contacted Dorset Council regarding the exterior signage at Gunz Barber in East Street and had been advised that the owner should contact Dorset Council, to discuss whether a retrospective planning application was required, or not. The Clerk had contacted the owner to pass on the advice and request an update, but had yet to receive a response.

### **15. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN JOINT COUNCILS COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan JCC meeting of 3 June 2021 be received and the decisions therein adopted.

Cllr Karen Hunt asked whether a Neighbourhood Plan project relating to heritage interpretation had been initiated. The Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer advised that the focus was on the Access & Movement Study and that the interpretation project would follow.

Cllr Julian Jones queried reference to a one-hour limit for JCC meetings. The Town Clerk advised that this was based on guidance received from the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils but was not a legislative requirement.

## **16. ACCESS & MOVEMENT STUDY**

RESOLVED: that the public be permitted to participate in discussion of this item only.

Finlay McNab of Streets Reimagined, along with the Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer, presented the findings of a report commissioned in 2021. Three options were presented for development and further discussion.

The Town Clerk summarised the supporting report, ENCL: 3634, which invited members to consider the options and how to use them to best effect in influencing agencies with major responsibilities, such as Dorset Council and Highways England. The report also recommended further work in respect of connectivity with the Vearse Farm development.

Debbie Bond of Bridport Business Chamber set out the Chamber view. Option 3 had received some support from members, option 2 received no support at all, and members were broadly supportive of Option 1, with some caveats, including the need for additional parking and public consultation. Funding and timing of changes were also identified as issues.

Nigel Ewens, a director of Jurassic Coast Railways, was keen to engage to expand the discussion to include the provision of a railway, following on from a presentation to Full Council on 30 March 2021.

Mark Dicker, South Street business owner, spoke of the need to embrace change and to move, at least in part, away from the use of motor vehicles.

Town councillors welcomed the study and discussed:

- Whether one option should be given preference over the other two;
- The importance of an overarching vision, particularly as part of any submission in respect of the Local Transport Plan;
- The advantages and disadvantages of gradual or transformational changes to the town centre;
- The problems caused by traffic using the town centre to traverse the town;
- The use of 'delivery hubs' to improve the viability of transformational change;
- The importance of the A35 in enabling any radical changes to the town centre traffic arrangements;
- The impact of growing numbers of vehicles;
- The use of the 'eco towns' as a template for change;
- A concern that the study did not have sufficient focus on climate change;
- The importance of the availability of public transport and other alternatives to the car, for those travelling from villages in the Bridport area;
- The need to reduce car use;
- The adverse impact of congestion on Bridport as a destination;
- The need for car parking facilities to complement any proposed changes; and
- The importance of working with neighbouring villages.

RESOLVED: that the Council

- (i) notes the findings of the final report.
- (ii) agrees that the evidence and options should be shared with Highways England, Dorset Council Highways, and the developers of Vearse Farm.
- (iii) agrees that the Access & Movement Study report be used as part of the Town Council submission to the Local Transport Plan review, review of the BANP and any transport/ town centre policies/programmes developed with Dorset Council or other relevant agencies.
- (iv) agrees to support the additional works to develop specific options for connecting the Vearse Farm Development to the centre of Bridport; and
- (v) should convene a working group, open to all councillors, to develop a vision to submit alongside the Access & Movement Study.

The meeting was suspended at 8.37pm for a comfort break, and resumed at 8.45pm.

## **17. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Town Clerk, as a relative of the applicant in application A3, left the room while this item was discussed and a decision taken.

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

## **18. PLANNING DECISIONS**

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3636. He advised that the report now included information on any use of the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan by Planning Officers, in arriving at recommendations for individual applications.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

## **19. HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP**

The notes of the meeting held on 24 June 2021 were received and summarised by the Town Clerk.

The following recommendations therein were approved:

### **(Min 8) Other Highway Matters**

- a. Request for signal changes at the Town Hall

RESOLVED: that the Town Surveyor be asked to pursue possible changes to vehicle detection and traffic light sequencing with Dorset Council.

- b. Parking in George Street, West Bay

RESOLVED: that the request for support be deferred pending the outcome of the review of parking.

- c. Parking in Meadowlands, West Bay

RESOLVED: that the Town Surveyor look into the use of the Melplash showground for Dorset Waste Partnership employees, and as overflow parking.

d. Tannery Road roundabout

RESOLVED: that the town surveyor pursue clearer marking and signing at the Tannery Road roundabout.

e. Dropped kerb – Fishweir Lane

RESOLVED: that the Town Surveyor be authorised by delegation to consider support for the request.

f. Parking in Church Street

RESOLVED: that the request for support be deferred, pending the outcome of the review of parking.

g. Double yellow lines, Coneygar Road

RESOLVED: that no further action be taken, as the request had already been supported.

h. Shave Cross Inn Community Minibus Service

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk work with Cllr Kelvin Clayton to arrange a presentation to the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee by the operators of the service.

**20. VEARSE FARM WORKING GROUP**

The Town Clerk presented the notes of a meeting held on 15 June 2021.

RESOLVED: that the notes of the Vearse Farm working group meeting of 15 June 2021 be noted.

**21. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were none.

The meeting closed at **9.24pm**.

**The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 26 July 2021**