

MINUTES of a VIRTUAL meeting (Zoom ID: 874 0619 7495) of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held on Monday 6 September 2021 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Dave Bolwell (in the chair)

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

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Phil Summerton addressed members, objecting to planning application P/FUL/2021/01762. He advised that this application for three dwellings replaced a previously refused application for two. Approximately 20 people had objected and he asked whether the Town Council would oppose the application. He added that the original bungalow was supposed to be single-storey, and was now a chalet. He further asked whether the Town Council would support enforcement on this matter.

Mr Summerton also addressed the meeting on behalf of ADVEARSE. He said that there had been a weak statement from the owner of the employment land at the Foundry Lea (formerly Vearse Farm) development site, and he was interested in the Town Council's position. He advised that ADVEARSE had asked Dorset Council to confirm that any planning application would be considered by committee, and requested that the Town Council persuade Dorset Council of the need for this. He added that ADVEARSE would like to see the Lovers' Grove footpath restored to its pristine condition seen in the early 20th century, and asked for Town Council support to persuade the developers.

The Town Clerk thanked Mr Summerton for his address, and advised that a meeting of the Foundry Lea Working Group would consider his comments.

32. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ian Bark and Geoff Ackerman.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

34. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26 July 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and that the Chairman should sign the minutes at the earliest available opportunity.

35. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

36. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3640.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

37. BUS BACK BETTER

Consideration was given to the Town Council's submission to a consultation by Dorset Council, ENCL: 3648. Town Clerk reported that, as the timing of this consultation fell between two Planning Committee meetings, a response was compiled under delegation and with informal consultation with town councillors. The response gave support for WATAG's submission, and added comments about the need for bus strategy to complement climate, transport, cycling/walking and parking strategies. It also highlighted the importance of the Foundry Lea development and a need for measurable targets.

Cllr Julian Jones reported on his attendance at a related virtual meeting with Dorset Council and consultants. He expressed concern that there would not be any meaningful outcomes.

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

38. CAR PARKING STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the proposed Dorset Council Parking Charges Strategy report, ENCL 3649. The report set out proposed parking charges and arrangements for parking permits, along with details of a survey on charges for motorists with disabilities.

Members discussed:

- The link between increasing charges and encouraging modal shift;
- Concerns about the impact of permit charges on residents who did not have access to on-street parking, a driveway, or garage;
- The need for clear strategic links with climate and transport policies;
- A preference for use of car park charges to reduce inconsiderate on-street parking; and
- Support for locating spaces for disabled motorists at the most convenient points for access to shops and facilities.

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

39. PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES AND DELEGATED PLANNING DECISIONS

Consideration was given to a letter sent under delegation, ENCL: 3650, expressing concern about Dorset Council's policy on planning applications for energy saving measures to heritage assets, which seemed generally to be refused, and the delegation of decisions. The Town Clerk reported that the letter had been drafted

under delegation by the Clerk, Chairman and Cllr Kelvin Clayton as agreed at the last meeting, and sent to Dorset Council.

Members welcomed the letter and the Town Clerk was asked to chase a response from Dorset Council. Cllrs Kelvin Clayton and Dave Bolwell agreed they would liaise over engagement of the constituency MP. Members agreed to further discuss the matter informally outside the meeting and to consider how the issue could be incorporated into the forthcoming Housing Week events, community engagement and the review of the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED: that the letter to Dorset Council be noted.

40. A35 ROUNDABOUTS

The Town Clerk reported on the public debate about the two A35 roundabouts in Bridport. Highways England had responded to Town Council concerns by cutting back the Crown roundabout as one of the two options the Council had been asked to choose from. Generally, the local response seemed to have been positive, although assurances were needed regarding the maintenance regime and there was some disappointment that the roundabout could not host a 'feature' of some kind. The Clerk planned to follow up both of these issues with Highways England. The East Road roundabout was temporarily at least the responsibility of Dorset Council, whose rewinding plan had attracted a mixed response, with positive comments when the growth was in colourful flower, and reactions turning against the approach when the flowers died away but thistles and bramble remained.

The Clerk further reported that he had received two approaches about sponsorship of the roundabouts but his understanding is that Highways England would not allow this as the sponsorship signs could be a distraction. Alternative approaches would be considered.

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

41. FOUNDRY LEA (FORMERLY VEARSE FARM) WORKING GROUP

The Town Clerk reported that during August the Town Council, along with Symondsburry PC, had ensured that a consultation on the Foundry Lea Design Code was accessible by those without internet access, with displays in the town centre and at Eype Church. The Town Council had also undertaken a social media campaign, reaching over 13,000 Facebook users in the Bridport area. At the start of the consultation the Council had representation at a stakeholder meeting looking at the Foundry Lea Design Code and made a strong case for improvements in sustainability, walking/cycle access, a design that complements and integrates with the existing Bridport settlement, and better coordination of planning by the various developers. The next meeting of the working group would receive updates on all of these issues.

The working group would also consider an addendum to the Council's Access & Movement Study, looking specifically at access issues between Foundry Lea and the established settlement, along with associated design issues. A draft report by Streets Reimagined had been circulated to members and the Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer was seeking feedback for the final version.

Members discussed concerns over the lack of plans for the Foundry Lea employment land, the need for the reserved matters application to be considered in committee by Dorset Council, and the inclusion of Lovers Lane for discussion at the next working group meeting.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

Cllr Barry Irvine left the meeting at this point, at 9.21pm.

42. COMMUNICATIONS

The Town Clerk reported that:

- The Neighbourhood Plan JCC had met the previous week but the draft minutes were not yet available and would be tabled at the next meeting. The committee had discussed Neighbourhood Plan project priorities before it became inquorate as one member had to leave. An informal discussion of the remaining members followed, looking at how project costs could be met, and at a draft annual BANP monitoring report; and
- Dorset Council had announced some reductions in service provision in their Planning Team, including no longer sending neighbour letters, changing the way notices are published and automating lists for parish councillors, so that officers could focus on planning applications. This they advised would help address delays in planning applications resulting from a significant increase in demand.

Cllr Sarah Carney reported that volunteers were sought for a Town Council stall for Housing Week.

Cllr Dave Rickard reported that:

- Concerns had been expressed at the DAPTC Western Area meeting that the Dorset Council planning portal contained significant inaccuracies; and
- Information on the Transition Town Bridport Greener Homes event in September was available on the Transition Town Bridport website.

The meeting closed at **9.07pm**.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on Monday 27 September 2021