

MINUTES of a meeting (Zoom ID: 882 5185 2862) of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 31 January 2022 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Dave Bolwell (in the Chair)

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

Also Present: Will Austin (Town Clerk).

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

73. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Barry Irvine.

74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Kelvin Clayton declared an interest in agenda item 4, application A6, as the applicant. He left the meeting for the duration of discussion of, and decision on, the Council's comments.

75. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 January 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and be signed by the Chairman.

76. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Chairman advised that he had already commented on Application A1 in his capacity as a Dorset Council member. He was predisposed to welcome the application, but open to changing his view.

Having declared an interest at agenda item 2, minute 74, Cllr Kelvin Clayton left the meeting for the duration of discussion of, and decision on, the Council's comments on application A6.

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

77. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3692.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

78. BLUE BADGE CAR PARK CHARGING POLICY

Consideration was given to the proposed Blue Badge Car Park Charging Policy put forward by Dorset Council, ENCL: 3693.

The Town Clerk requested comments for inclusion in a response. Members discussed:

- Whether the charge for a Restricted Mobility Parking Permit was a tax on disability, and whether it should be free;
- Whether the permit eligibility criteria were, in effect, a form of means testing;
- Whether the three hours allowed with the permit, and the additional hour for pay and display, were sufficient to cater for motorists with disabilities;
- Whether the permits would be available to people travelling from outside the Dorset Council area;
- Concerns about the lack of infrastructure to accommodate blue badge parking in Bridport;
- Concerns about a 'one size fits all' policy approach across the Dorset Council area;
- The potential impact on on-street parking, of the proposed blue badge provisions for car parks;
- Whether the proposals were primarily aimed at raising revenue; and
- The lack of public transport provision, as an alternative to travel by car.

Following discussion of these issues, it was

RESOLVED: that a response be sent under delegation, accepting the principle of charging and highlighting the impacts on on-street parking, tourism, and those travelling from outside the Dorset Council area.

79. COMMUNICATIONS AND ONGOING ISSUES

The Chairman advised that he was pursuing previously discussed planning enforcement cases.

The meeting closed at **8.15pm**.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on 21 February 2022