

Minutes of an INFORMAL meeting of the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN JOINT COUNCILS COMMITTEE (NPJCC) held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday 3 March 2022 at 10.00am.

PRESENT: Councillors: Pelham Allen (Symondsburry Parish Council, Chairman), Jim Basker (Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council) and Ian Bark (Bridport Town Council).

Also present: David Dixon (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer) and Will Austin (Town Clerk).

As the required quorum of four members of participating councils had not been achieved, the meeting proceeded informally, with any proposed decisions to be presented as recommendations to the next quorate NPJCC meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Neil Chilcott (Bradpole Parish Council). Allington Parish Council had declined to send a representative.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RECOMMENDED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2021 be approved.

4. IMPLEMENTING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – PROJECTS REVIEW & UPDATE

Consideration was given to an update on project delivery, ENCL: 3696. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer reported that the brief for a Streetscape & Heritage Interpretation Study had been drafted, ahead of inviting submissions from suitable contractors. The Town Council could proceed with awarding the commission, and provide funding pending responses to a previously circulated request for parish council contributions.

Members considered the project and asked that the request for funding contributions be recirculated.

Cllr Jim Basker noted that a request for a contribution to the Energy Champions project was set to be considered by Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council at its March 2022 meeting.

The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer further reported that the Energy Champions initiative was being piloted via the Town Council. Up to 16 volunteers had been engaged to date. Training for community engagement

work would end in March 2022 and subject to funding, advice and information-giving would continue into the Autumn. The work would also link with the Transition Town Bridport 'Green Homes' event.

Members considered:

- Some volunteers who had indicated that they did not require the training, which was aimed at addressing skills shortages in knowledge and advice-giving.
- Associated work with Magna Housing, who would be working with schools and colleges to develop capacity.
- The best means of ensuring take-up of advice, and access to funding.
- Information to be provided by the Centre for Sustainable Energy, mapping areas of Bridport where homes might benefit from energy efficiency measures.
- Engaging with advice and support provided by Ridgewater Energy.
- Support offered by Citizens Advice.

The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer also reported on Project 17 (Second and Holiday Homes), for which Cllr Colin Baker had produced a summary that would be incorporated, and on Project 2 (Town Centre Health Checks) which would be considered at the next Town Centre Working Group meeting.

RECOMMENDED: that the update on project delivery be noted.

5. ALLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL – PARTICIPATION IN BANP JCC

The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer reported that further confirmation had been received from Allington Parish Council regarding a withdrawal of support for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Members discussed the position, and the need for updated information from Bradpole Parish Council on their future representation.

RECOMMENDED: that the update be noted.

6. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to the budget monitoring report, ENCL: 3697, setting out JCC operational expenditure in the financial year to date, and projecting a small deficit of £21 at the year end.

Members considered the report and asked that budget contributions for 2022-23 be considered at the next meeting.

RECOMMENDED: that the update be noted.

7. OTHER INFORMATION UPDATE ITEMS

The Chairman updated members on the Community Governance Review process, plans for a Foundry Lea Working Group meeting, monitoring of the Neighbourhood Plan being carried out by the Steering Group, and the likelihood that a review of the Plan could be in 2023-24, after the production of a new Local Plan.

8. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the meeting would be Cllr Pelham Allen's last meeting, and

RECOMMENDED: that the NPJCC offers its sincere thanks to Cllr Pelham Allen for his work as a member and as Chairman of the Committee.

The next meeting of the JCC is scheduled for 16 June 2022, at 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 11.55am.