

Minutes of a meeting of the NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL COUNCIL JOINT COMMITTEE (NPJCC) held in the Committee Room at Mountfield on Thursday 22 June 2022 at 10.00am.

PRESENT: Councillors: Jim Basker (Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council, Chairman from minute 2), Paul Everall (Bradpole Parish Council), Ian Bark (Bridport Town Council), and Paul Hartmann (Symondsburry Parish Council).

Also present: David Dixon (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer, attended via Zoom), Will Austin (Town Clerk) and two members of the public.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Jim Basker was nominated and seconded to serve as Chairman for the municipal year. There being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED: that Cllr Jim Basker be elected to serve as the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Joint Councils Committee for the municipal year 2022/2023.

Cllr Basker chaired the meeting from this point.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Phyllida Culpin (BANP SG).

Members discussed a change to the JCC Terms of Reference, in respect of the meeting quorum. The Town Clerk advised that a report would be brought forward to a future meeting for consideration.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Paul Everall declared an interest as a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Paul Everall was nominated and seconded to serve as Vice-Chairman for the municipal year. There being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED: that Cllr Paul Everall be elected to serve as the Vice-Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Joint Councils Committee for the municipal year 2022/2023.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the informal (inquorate) meeting of the NPJCC held on 3 March 2022 be noted, and that the recommendations therein be adopted as follows:

- (i) Minute 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2021 be approved.
- (ii) Minute 4. IMPLEMENTING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – PROJECTS REVIEW & UPDATE
RESOLVED: that the update on project delivery be noted.
- (iii) Minute 5. ALLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL – PARTICIPATION IN BANP JCC
RESOLVED: that the update be noted.
- (iv) Minute 6. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT
RESOLVED: that the update be noted.
- (v) Minute 8. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING
RESOLVED: that the NPJCC offers its sincere thanks to Cllr Pelham Allen for his work as a member and as Chairman of the Committee.

6. IMPLEMENTING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to a draft of the Annual Monitoring Report, ENCL: 3726. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer thanked Sal Robinson for her work in collating and analysing information for the report, and summarised the main points as follows:

- An increase in the number of applicants this year indicated an increase in planning activity.
- A reduction in the number of applications where the Neighbourhood Plan was referred to by the planning officer might be explained by an increase in the number of smaller applications and a slight change in the monitoring process.
- A request had been sent to Dorset Council to include the Neighbourhood Plan in a checklist for planning officers, and a response was awaited.
- As many as 15 refusals referenced the Neighbourhood Plan, and the Steering Group had expressed concern about the negative use of the plan. This would be monitored.
- Work was ongoing on the development of a register of non-designated heritage assets for the Local Plan, and there was an issue in getting the Neighbourhood Plan list incorporated into this. A response was being chased.
- There was some minor additional information and editing required before publication of the report.

Members discussed:

- The need to understand the impact of government plans for neighbourhood planning on the Neighbourhood Plan, which currently had greater weight than the Local Plan. The Project Manager & Community

Initiatives Officer advised he would look into incorporating relevant information into the monitoring report.

- The need to review the Neighbourhood Plan, and the interaction of the review timetable with that for the Local Plan. It would be possible to commence a review and wait for the completion of the Local Plan, prior to finalising a revised Neighbourhood Plan.
- A concern about the use of a particular application in Symondsburry parish to illustrate the negative use of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer advised that parishes could be encouraged to engage more directly in the analysis of use of the plan.
- A planning forum held by Dorset Council on 27 May 2022, which had provided helpful updates, including one on delays to the Local Plan.
- The additional information referred to in the earlier summary. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer advised that this consisted of financial information, which had now been provided by Bridport Town Council and Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council. Figures were awaited from Symondsburry Parish Council.
- The leverage afforded by having three Dorset Council Bridport ward members on the Dorset Council Planning Committee, albeit that this meant they were unable to comment on applications, prior to their being considered at committee.
- A concern raised by Bridport Town Council about the lack of definition of, and reference to, public benefit when being weighed against less than substantial harm to heritage assets.

RESOLVED: that the Annual Monitoring Report be approved, subject to the incorporation of the further information required, and information on government guidance in respect of neighbourhood planning.

7. BUDGET REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL 3727, which set out the NPJCC operational costs incurred in the year 2021/22. The Town Clerk summarised the report that set out the outturn figures for costs and income in 2021/22, and proposed contributions from participating councils for 2022/23.

Members considered whether a contingency amount should be included in the budget. The Town Clerk advised it was not, as this was not considered best practice.

RESOLVED: that participant council NPJCC members be requested to seek their councils' approval for the proposed contributions, with supporting information.

8. OTHER INFORMATION UPDATE ITEMS

The Town Clerk reported on the consultation process for revised plans for the Foundry Lea development. The deadline for comments was 29 June 2022 for statutory consultees and 8 July 2022 for members of the public.

Cllr Jim Basker advised that Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council could only comment on the impact on Bridport.

The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer reported that the BANP Steering Group had met and focused mainly on the annual monitoring report. Cllr Paul Everall was providing input to the Streetscape & Heritage Interpretation Study. Cllr Everall asked whether additional volunteers could be sought for the Steering Group. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer advised that recruitment might be more successful, once the Steering Group was more active in a review of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Paul Everall suggested that other projects could be pursued, as noted in the monitoring report. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer advised that further projects would be considered in Autumn 2022.

Cllr Jim Basker asked about progress with climate smart projects. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer advised that Transition Town Bridport and the Town Council-recruited volunteer Energy Champions were working together, towards a campaign in the Autumn.

The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer advised that a report would be brought forward to a future meeting, to allow consideration of a 'light' review of the Neighbourhood Plan, in view of the fact that the Local Plan had been delayed.

RESOLVED: that the updates be noted.

9. DATE FOR NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chairman reported that future meetings of the NPJCC were scheduled for 1 September 2022, 1 December 2022 and 2 March 2023, all at 10.00am.

RESOLVED: that the scheduled meeting dates be noted.

The meeting closed at 10.53am.