

MINUTES of a meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Mountfield on Monday 20 March 2023 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Dave Bolwell (in the Chair)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk)

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public attended to address the Public Forum.

82. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

83. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

84. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

85. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

86. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3791.

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

87. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION WORKING GROUP

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3798.

The Town Clerk reported on discussions with working group members. These had highlighted delays in consideration of requests from residents due to the quarterly scheduling of meetings. Recommendations from the working group were also often the subject of repeat discussions at committee. Many requests were similar in nature, as were the resulting recommendations from the working group. The report asked

members to consider how to address these issues, and set out a means by which this could be achieved, using delegations for routine matters, and referral to committee for more complex or strategic matters. Any changes would need agreement by Full Council, as the body responsible for the working group.

Members discussed:

- Whether the working group could be convened on an 'as needed' basis;
- A preference for delegation of decisions to the Town Surveyor and Town Clerk, with a summary reported periodically to committee;
- The need to ensure ongoing liaison with the Western Area Transport Action Group (WATAG), who were represented on the working group. One possibility would be a request for a periodic report to committee; and
- The inclusion on the committee agenda of a standing item for highways and transport matters, to ensure that urgent Council or WATAG matters could be addressed in timely fashion.

RECOMMENDED: that

- (i) The Highways & Transportation Working Group be discontinued at the end of the 2022-23 municipal year; and
- (ii) Decisions on requests from the public be considered under delegation by the Town Surveyor or Town Clerk; and
- (iii) A summary of such delegated decisions be tabled periodically at Planning Committee for information; and
- (iv) WATAG be invited to submit an annual report to committee, and be invited to attend committee for urgent matters; and
- (v) The Planning Committee agenda include a standing item for highways and transport matters.

88. FOUNDRY LEA WORKING GROUP

The Town Clerk reported that since the last committee meeting, the Foundry Lea consortium of developers had held a 'Meet the Builder' event at the Town Hall, and that the Chideock to Bridport Path group had written to the consortium expressing concerns over pedestrian arrangements at the Miles Cross roundabout.

Members discussed:

- The need to maintain footpaths throughout the duration of the development; and
- The need for a Foundry Lea Working Group meeting at which pedestrian access could be considered. The Town Clerk advised that scheduling of a meeting was in hand.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

89. COMMUNICATIONS AND ONGOING ISSUES

No matters were reported.

The meeting closed at 7.39pm.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on 24 April 2023