

MINUTES of a meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 29 January 2024 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Dave Bolwell (in the Chair)

Cllrs: Ian Bark Anne Rickard
Sarah Carney Dave Rickard
Kelvin Clayton

Also Present: Will Austin (Town Clerk)

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the Public Forum.

66. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Geoff Ackerman and Julian Jones.

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All members present declared themselves as being acquaintances of the applicant for planning application P/LBC/2023/07348.

68. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 January 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

69. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

Following a discussion about procedure for tree-related planning applications, it was

RESOLVED: that a Dorset Council Tree Officer be invited to attend a future meeting to explain procedure and delegations in place for tree-related planning applications.

70. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3874.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

71. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

The Town Clerk reported that Dorset Council had launched a survey to obtain community feedback for the next iteration of the Local Transport Plan, and would be holding an engagement session in Bridport on 17 February 2024. He invited members to consider a process for determining a response to the survey, which was subject to a closing date of 3 March 2024.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that a draft response be produced by officers for informal consultation with councillors, followed by formal consideration at the next meeting.

The Town Clerk further reported on a request from Dorset Council for any further comments on proposed changes to the junction of South Street, Skilling Hill Road, West Bay Road, and Morrisons. He reminded members that following a presentation to a previous committee meeting, a response had been provided and had been circulated to councillors for information.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that a further response be provided making clear members' view that the Town Council's ideas had been ignored, and that the proposals were ill-conceived and a poor use of public funds, that could be better spent on higher priority highway improvements in Bridport.

72. BOLDWOOD HOUSE

The Town Clerk reported that subsequent to the last update provided in November 2023, Bridport Area Community Housing CLT (BACH) had secured a £5,000 grant from Dorset Council's Community-Led Housing Fund, which would help BACH in accessing professional advice to develop, select and evaluate options for renovation/redevelopment of Boldwood House. The focus for the grant funding was to work up options and financial modelling to address a lack of availability of rentable 1-2 bed options for single adults and couples, local economic barriers to staying in Bridport, and interest in skills and infrastructure for achieving sustainability ambitions and solutions locally. The Town Council would be kept involved in the options development over the coming weeks and would be involved in the exploratory meetings with Magna Housing in March 2024.

Members asked that further reports be provided with any updates, and in terms of engagement, it was

RESOLVED: that Cllr Sarah Carney be engaged in exploratory meetings on behalf of the Town Council.

73. COMMUNICATIONS AND ONGOING ISSUES

Cllr Kelvin Clayton reported that he was investigating informal consultation methods, including deliberative democracy.

Cllr Dave Bolwell reported that he had referred a planning enforcement issue, relating to signs and cameras at Lidl on St Andrews Road, to Dorset Council.

The Town Clerk reported that an enforcement concern at land adjacent to Rawles Way had been reported to him. The Chairman advised he would take this matter up in his capacity as a Dorset Council member.

Cllr Dave Rickard expressed concern about a recent recommendation, by the Dorset Council Conservation Officer, that secondary double glazing was a suitable alternative to double-glazed units in listed buildings.

The meeting closed at **8.24pm**.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on 26 February 2024