

MINUTES of a meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Mountfield on Monday 18 March 2024 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Dave Bolwell (in the Chair)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk) and one member of the public.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Nigel Amor spoke regarding a proposed residential development off South Street, which he referred to as a 'retirement ghetto'. He reminded members of the need for affordable housing, the lack of housing for young people, and potential issues with narrow pavements, traffic, and flood risk.

Mr Amor further noted a request for yellow lines on Victoria Grove and Osbourne Road, and advised that as a resident of the latter his preference was for a one-way system on North Street and traffic calming in the area.

74. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

76. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 January 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Julian Jones asked whether there were any updates on the future use of Boldwood House. The Town Clerk advised that a meeting between Magna Housing as owner, and Bridport Area Community Housing Trust, was due shortly. Cllr Sarah Carney reported that she had met with two people who were seeking to establish a community hub and that this location might be suitable.

77. CANCELLED MEETING OF 26 FEBRUARY 2024

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3894, regarding decisions taken under delegation, due to urgency, following the cancellation of the previous meeting.

RESOLVED: that the following decisions taken under delegation be noted and approved:

- (i) Planning application comments submitted as shown in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (ii) A response to the Local Transport Plan consultation submitted to Dorset Council as shown at Appendix 2 to the report; and
- (iii) The Town Council's support for proposed revised governance arrangements for the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan.

78. PROPOSED 'RETIREMENT COMMUNITY' DEVELOPMENT

RESOLVED: that this item be deferred until the meeting on 3 June 2024, unless urgency dictates an earlier meeting.

Members noted the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan for proposed housing developments, and the Town Clerk reported that it was intended that the plan should be the subject of a light review prior to the publication of a new Local Plan, with a full review to follow.

79. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

80. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3875.

Members noted with concern that for a second time in recent months, the Town Council had not been consulted on an application due to an administrative error by the planning authority, on this occasion application P/VOL/2023/07367. Members also highlighted a need for clarity over the relative weight of Neighbourhood Plan policies where two or more conflicted, such as with planning application P/FUL/2023/06500.

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

81. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION WORKING GROUP

The Town Clerk reported on a request from Dorset Council to develop a proposal for the Town Hall junction. He advised that this request should be noted, but that any discussion should be considered in the context of pre-election period rules.

RESOLVED: that the request be noted.

The Town Clerk reported on a request for a 30mph sign at the junction on Lee Lane and Jessopp Avenue.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that the request be supported.

The Town Clerk reported on a request to support the restoration of Winterbourne Steepleton and Martinstown as destinations on the X51 bus route service.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that the request be supported.

The Town Clerk reported on parking in Victoria Grove, at the pinch point of North Street and at the bottom of Osbourne Road.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that Dorset Council be asked to review parking arrangements in Victoria Grove, to ensure that safe access for emergency vehicles is maintained.

The Town Clerk reported on a request for resurfacing work to be carried out outside of 37, East Road and for the speed limit to be reduced from 40mph to 30mph.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that the request to lower the speed limit in East Road, from 40mph to 30mph, be supported, and that the request to resurface the road in this area not be supported at this time.

The Town Clerk reported on a request to reduce the speed limit on part of Sea Road North from 40mph to 30mph.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that a reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph at the southern end of Sea Road North be supported as an interim measure, and that Dorset Council be reminded of the Town Council's preference for a 20mph limit across the town where people live, work, play, and learn.

The Town Clerk reported on an update from Dorset Council proposals for pavement widening and other changes to the junction of South Street, Morrisons, Skilling Hill Road and West Bay Road. The changes had been proposed by Dorset Council, to improve the pedestrian route between a proposed 'care village' on Flood Lane, and the town centre. The care village development been delayed pending a review of procurement, and the junction changes had consequently also been deferred. Dorset Council was considering whether to return the allocated funding of £168,000 to the strategic Community Infrastructure Levy fund.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

82. FOUNDRY LEA WORKING GROUP

The notes of the last meeting held on 30 January 2024 had been tabled with the agenda.

RESOLVED: that the notes of the Foundry Lea Working Group meeting of 30 January 2024 be noted.

83. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Consideration was given to a report of the Community Infrastructure Levy receipts and expenditure, ENCL: 3895.

RESOLVED: that the report be approved for publication and submission to Dorset Council.

84. COMMUNICATIONS AND ONGOING ISSUES

Cllr Sarah Carney reported that she had attended a networking event for town and parish councils and Dorset Council, and would send a brief note to the Town Clerk for circulation.

Cllr Dave Bolwell reported that he was liaising with the appropriate authorities regarding 'boy racers' at West Bay.

The meeting closed at 8.36pm.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on 22 April 2024