

MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 3 June 2024 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Ian Bark (in the Chair from item 2 onwards)

Cllrs: Nigel Amor	Anna Killick
Jonathan Bourbon	Paddy Mooney
Sarah Carney	Anne Rickard
Kelvin Clayton	David Worthington

ALSO PRESENT Cllr Dave Bolwell, Will Austin (Town Clerk), and three members of the public.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED: that Cllr Ian Bark be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year 2024/2025.

Councillor Bark assumed the Chair.

PUBLIC FORUM

Cllr Dave Bolwell addressed the Public Forum regarding the Local Plan requirement for a five-year land supply. The South and West Dorset area had a supply equivalent to 5.28 years, but the remainder of the county was below five years. A proposal to combine the figures from the pre-unitary Local Plans would dilute the figure for South and West Dorset, in turn reducing the ability to resist developments outside the Defined Development Boundary. Cllr Bolwell said he would oppose this in his capacity as a Dorset Council member, and asked whether the Town Council would wish to make a representation.

Members discussed:

- The implications of the proposal and what could be done;
- Concern that the proposal could be taken forward under delegation by officers;
- The potential erosion of the Local Plan, National Landscape, and local democracy;
- The importance of the Neighbourhood Plan as a means of managing housing development in the area;
- A recognition of the need for housing locally, but that the need was specifically for smaller social-rented accommodation;
- Whether the proposal was permitted under National Planning Policy Framework regulations;

The Clerk advised he would table this matter for discussion as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Mrs Walkey addressed members as the applicant for P/HOU/2024/02166. The proposed extension was for her daughter, who was in her thirties and could not afford to buy. The extension would provide independent accommodation. Mrs Walkey acknowledged that some objections had been lodged.

Niki McCretton spoke about application P/FUL/2024/02307, which sought a change of use from a bank to a bar, restaurant with dancing and music. Niki was supportive of the need for nightlife but was concerned to protect the reputation of live music and the Lyric Theatre. The former Sins and Neon venues had an adverse impact in this respect. The tone of the application was negative and acoustic protection was needed. The fire exit area also needed further consideration, and the walls created an echo chamber.

All present considered a written representation from Glenn Crawford, expressing his concern regarding the difference between the housing needs of the Bridport community, and the new housing which was planned at the Foundry Lea development.

2. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Anne Rickard declared an interest as a friend of a neighbour to the location of application P/FUL/2024/02307.

4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: that Cllr Kelvin Clayton be elected Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year 2024/2025.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 April 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED: that the comments set out in the [attached schedule A](#) be agreed and forwarded to Dorset Council.

7. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3898.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

8. FOUNDRY LEA WORKING GROUP

The Town Clerk asked members to consider the membership of the Foundry Lea Working Group. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that the existing membership be retained, other than town councillor representation which shall be Cllrs Sarah Carney, Kelvin Clayton, Anna Killick and Paddy Mooney.

The Town Clerk advised that a meeting would now be scheduled. Members highlighted public art, and a 'pinch point' on West Road as matters for discussion, and acknowledged that the limited influence available to the Town Council was best served by maintaining good relationships with the developers.

9. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

The Town Clerk presented a request for support for parking restrictions in Old Church Road, Bothenhampton. Members expressed concern that there was no clear plan for vehicles displaced by additional measures and noted that wider community support had not accompanied the request. It was therefore

RESOLVED: that the request for support for parking restrictions in Old Church Road, Bothenhampton be declined at this time.

10. COMMUNICATIONS AND ONGOING ISSUES

No communications or ongoing issues were reported.

The meeting closed at **9.29pm**.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee will be held on 24 June 2024