

MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 28 April 2025 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Ian Bark (in the chair)

Cllrs: Nigel Amor, Jonathan Bourbon (from minute 113, 8.24pm), Kelvin Clayton, Paddy Mooney, Anne Rickard and David Worthington.

ALSO PRESENT: Two members of the public and Will Austin (Town Clerk).

PUBLIC FORUM

Doug McIntosh, a resident neighbouring the Lidl store in St Andrews Road, explained the impact of north east-facing illuminated signage at Lidl on his residence. The illumination was all night, and having investigated the planning history for the site, he considered that there was no permission for illumination. He had reported the matter to the Enforcement Officer at Dorset Council, who had advised he would consider, starting in the next two weeks. There was a separate issue of noise from deliveries after 11pm and as early as 6.30am and Mr McIntosh had raised a noise complaint about this. His request at this meeting was for the Town Council to formally report the issue of illumination.

John Collingwood, also a near neighbour of the site, outlined the history of involvement in this issue by the St Andrews Road Residents Association. The association had successfully objected to previous applications for illuminated signage, and he considered its appearance at this time to be 'planning creep', affecting the surrounding Conservation Area.

Members sought clarification of the planning history from Mr McIntosh, and considered lighting arrangements at other nearby business premises including Toolstation and the Co-op store. The climate, biodiversity, and light pollution impacts of illumination were also discussed.

The Chairman thanked Mr McIntosh and Mr Collingwood for their addresses.

105. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Jonathan Bourbon for lateness, Sarah Carney, and Anna Killick.

Cllr Carney had joined the meeting via Zoom. Legislation did not allow for this to be considered as legally in attendance, and Cllr Carney did not vote on any matters.

106. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Paddy Mooney declared an interest in agenda item 6, Planning Enforcement, as a near neighbour to the site under discussion, Lidl, St Andrews Road. Councillor Mooney refrained from voting on this item (minute 110).

107. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Sarah Carney asked whether the public could be advised of the National Highways decision not to proceed with improvements to the A35 Sea Road South at this time. The Town Clerk advised he would liaise with the Chairman.

108. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

109. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3997.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

110. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

The Committee considered a request from a resident, ENCL: 3998, that the Town Council submit an enforcement report relating to illuminated signage at Lidl, St Andrews Road. Members were advised that a report from the Town Council might add weight to the report already submitted by Mr McIntosh, discussed during the Public Forum.

Following discussion of the likely impact of a Town Council report, and the need for more robust planning policy on illumination it was

RESOLVED: that an enforcement report be submitted to Dorset Council.

RESOLVED: that the policy issues arising from this item be tabled for discussion at a future meeting.

111. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

The Committee gave consideration to (i) a request for parking restrictions on Alexandra Road, ENCL: 3999 and (ii) forthcoming A30/A35 road closures as notified by Balfour Beatty, ENCL: 4000.

Members expressed some sympathy for the operator of the One Stop store on Alexandra Road, whose deliveries were impacted by adjacent parking. However, they also noted that the introduction of additional parking restrictions in the area would have an adverse impact on residents, and would likely create parking issues elsewhere in the area.

RESOLVED: that the request for parking restrictions on Alexandra Road not be supported at this time, and that the requestor be invited to meet on site with members, and to speak at a future meeting.

Cllr Kelvin Clayton reported that residents in Downes Street had requested double yellow lines opposite their courtyard to ensure access and egress. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that the request be supported.

Cllr Kelvin Clayton further reported on a request for improved signage and a permanent Speed Indicator Device to deter speeding in Victoria Grove. Members noted plans for extension of 20mph restrictions and Cllr Clayton advised he would feed back to the requestor.

The Town Clerk reported that the proposed A35 road closures had been highlighted as having a potential adverse impact on businesses, in particular hospitality, as the closures would commence at 8pm. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Council should write to National Highways and Balfour Beatty to request a later start time for the proposed road closures, or some other flexible solution that would reduce the impact on local businesses.

112. LICENSING APPLICATIONS

No licensing applications had been received for consideration.

Cllr Jonathan Bourbon arrived at this point (8.24pm).

113. COMMUNICATIONS AND ONGOING ISSUES

Cllr Jonathan Bourbon highlighted concerns about the dangers presented by the 'pinch point' on West Road near to the Medical Centre. The Town Clerk advised that this would be tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 2 June 2025