

MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 21 July 2025 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Ian Bark (in the chair)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Daryl Chambers (Town Surveyor) and Claire Peters-Way (Property Manager).

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

#### **11. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Anna Killick.

#### **12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **13. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 June 2025 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

#### **15. PLANNING DECISIONS**

The Chair reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 4026.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

#### **16. LICENCING APPLICATIONS**

Members considered a licensing application for Jurassic Fields (West Bay Fields).

RESOLVED: that the licensing application for Jurassic Fields be supported.

#### **17. VERBAL UPDATE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW**

The Town Surveyor reported that the draft site options report by AECOM have been received by the NP Steering Group and JCC committee. Currently awaiting the final

report and members are aiming to have the Regulation 14 text ready to be agreed at the JCC meeting on the 4 September 2025. This will be presented to the Planning Committee on the 29 September 2025. After which a six-week public consultation will be launched to gather feedback from members of the public and Dorset Council. Following this the Regulation 15 documentation will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

## **18. WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDING SUPPORT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS**

The Chairman reported that the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG) funding support for Neighbourhood Planning support services ceased from March 2025.

It was noted that an online petition has been set up. Members agreed that the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan (BANP) is invaluable and provides Bridport Town Council & Symondsburry Parish Council the power to decide what is built in our area. The BANP can be used while Dorset Council's Local Plan is out of date. It was noted that Dorset Council will be launching a public consultation on the Local Plan in August 2025 before a draft is submitted for examination. Following the adoption of a new Local Plan the BANP will need to be reviewed, to reflect any changes in the local plan.

Members discussed the following issues:

- The effect that withdrawal of funding will have on the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan going forward.
- The issues relating to creating Neighbourhood Plans in cities and urban areas.
- Importance of Neighbourhood Plan's for rural areas and small communities to highlight priorities for the area.
- That all new Neighbourhood Plans will be subject to no funding support.

It was noted that the current review will not be affected, however a full review of the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan is due in 2036.

RESOLVED: that the Town Surveyor is to liaise with David Dixon to produce a letter objecting to the withdrawal.

RESOLVED: that the letter be discussed at the Full Council meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2025, following this submitted to MP Edward Morello and the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government.

## **19. COMMUNICATIONS AND ONGOING ISSUES**

Cllr Sarah Carney asked whether any further information had been received regarding possible Tree Preservation Orders at a site on St Swithins Road. The Town Surveyor advised he was not aware of any further developments.

The Town Surveyor reported that the Town Council has been contacted by a company on behalf of Churchill Living to identify a suitable receptor site for a population of slow worms. After a brief discussion it was:

RESOLVED: that Asker Meadows Local Nature Reserve be agreed as a potential area to act as a receptor site once the necessary planning permissions have been approved.

Cllr Jonathan Bourbon asked for an update on the West Allington 'pinch point' and if priority signs can be installed.

RESOLVED: that the Town Surveyor arrange a site meeting with Dorset Council.

Cllr Nigel Amor reported that there is an increase in the numbers of tractors driving at speed along Jessopp Avenue. He also asked if more speed indicator devices (SIDs) could be installed within the Bradpole ward including Jessopp Avenue. It was further reported that the speed limit on Sea Road South will decrease from 40mph to 30mph as part of a trial. The Town Surveyor noted that Jessopp Avenue was being considered for 20mph. Cllr Paddy Mooney reported that Pymore Road has been approved by Dorset Council for a 20mph speed limit and a public consultation will commence in the autumn.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and a list of potential areas for speed indicator devices be discussed.

The meeting closed at **7.36pm**.

**The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 1 September 2025**