MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 2 November 2026 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Kelvin Clayton (in the chair)

Cllrs: Sarah Carney
Paddy Mooney
David Worthington

ALSO PRESENT: Sally Freemantle (Town Clerk), Jo Hughes (HR & Finance Officer & Ward Clerk), Claire Peters-Way (Property Manager), Caroline Pearce (Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer), Sandy Goldsmith (Bradpole Ward Clerk), Amy Stephenson (Bridport West & Allington Ward and West Bay Ward Clerk - online),

One member of the press was present (online) and two members of the public were present in person.

PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public addressed the Committee regarding the Local Government Boundary Commission Review and the new electoral arrangements for Dorset Council. They highlighted the negative impact that the draft recommendations would have on Symondsbury if the parish were placed in Marshwood Vale Ward. They noted that Symondsbury Parish Council enjoys a strong working relationship with Bridport Town Council, and that the Town Council would also be diminished if that relationship were severed. They also emphasised the importance of having local representatives who understand the specific needs of the area.

A member of the public outlined licensing application 171193 for Max's Video, which proposed a video rental shop, micro cinema, community hub and event space in Bridport offering film screenings and community events. The application seeks flexible venue hire hours to accommodate activities including private hires and special events and not to rely on TEN's licences. It was noted that it is not their intention to open every week until 1am.

1 member of the public left the meeting at 6.09pm and did not return.

The Meeting Commenced at 6.10pm.

43. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Cllr Kelvin Clayton was nominated to chair the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Paddy Mooney and seconded by Cllr Sarah Carney.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Kelvin Clayton take the Chair for this meeting.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

44. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ian Bark due to personal reasons, Councillor Jonathan Bourbon due to personal reasons, Councillor Anna Killick due to

personal reasons and Councillor Bev Thorton due to personal reasons. Apologies were also received from Cllr Shane Bartlett (Dorset Council).

RESOLVED: the apologies for absence be approved with the reasons given.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr David Worthington declared a personal interest in licensing application 171193 on the agenda for Max's Video Ltd due to his acquaintance with the applicant. Councillor Worthington stated that he would leave the meeting during consideration of the application and would refrain from the discussion or voting.

46. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 September 2026 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting: Cllr Carney asked whether there was any update on the planning application for land north of Orchard Crescent. The Town Clerk agreed to request an update from the case officer.

Amy Stephenson joined the meeting (online) at 6.13pm.

47. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

48. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Chair reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 4178.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

49. LICENSING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to an open licensing application at Britmead Guest House, 154 West Bay Road, DT6 4EG.

RESOLVED: that the licensing application be supported.

Consideration was given to an open licensing application at The Bridport Dagger, 17 East Street, DT6 3JZ.

RESOLVED: that the licensing application be supported, as it appears on Dorset Council's licensing portal.

Cllr David Worthington left the meeting at 6.47pm.

Consideration was given to an open licensing application at Max's Video Ltd, Unit 34, St. Michaels Trading Estate, DT6 3RR.

RESOLVED: that the licensing application be supported.

Cllr David Worthington returned to the meeting at 6.50pm.

50. PLANNING CHANGES

It was noted that Cllr Shane Bartlett's update on planning changes had been deferred to the next meeting of this committee.

51. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

Consideration was given to a letter sent by Caroline Pearce to Mr Andrew Mead, the appointed Examiner, regarding the Bridport Neighbourhood Development Plan Review and the response to the request for clarification in relation to the issue of human rights.

The Council notes that the Plan Review has been subject to extensive consultation and that no representations have identified any human rights concerns. The Council is therefore satisfied that the Plan Review is compatible with human rights.

Members thanked Caroline Pearce for all her hard work.

RESOLVED: that Mr Mead's letter and the original request for clarification are published on the Bridport Town Council, Symondsbury Parish Council and Dorset Council websites for transparency.

52. DORSET COUNCIL – NEW LOCAL PLAN PROCESS

Members received an update on the new local plan process. The Town Clerk reported that responses had been submitted by the JCC (Joint Councils Committee) and BLAP (Bridport Local Area Partnership). As the submission deadline has passed, it was agreed to note and accept the responses submitted.

53. COMMUNICATIONS AND ONGOING ISSUES

Cllr Paddy Mooney reported that he had raised the West Allington pinch point with the Dorset Council portfolio holder. The matter has been referred to the Highways Officer who will arrange a site meeting with Cllr Jonathan Bourbon and the Town Surveyor.

Cllr Sarah Carney commented that the Miles Cross roundabout site visit took place and was also attended by Symondsbury Parish Council and Chideock Parish Council. Cllr Carney raised concern that there is a footpath connection missing from the roundabout to the other side of the A35 but advised that a cattle underpass exists that could serve this purpose and proposed a campaign for converting this existing underpass into a proper pedestrian route that could connect multiple parish paths and create a continuous walking route from Chideock to Burton Bradstock. Members agreed that contact should be made with Symondsbury Parish Council and Chideock Parish Council to arrange a site visit and gather more information.

54. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

"That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw."

One member of the press and one member of the public left the meeting at 7.02pm and did not return.

55. NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR DORSET COUNCIL – BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW

The committee considered a proposed response to the Local Government Boundary Commission Draft Recommendations.

Members considered proposed boundary changes for Bridport Ward and surrounding areas. It was agreed to oppose the Local Government Boundary Commission Draft Recommendations and to support retaining Symondsbury Parish Council within Bridport Ward, together with the addition of a fourth councillor for Bridport. Members also agreed to highlight the working relationship with Symondsbury Parish Council and to raise the issue of properties in West Bay being transferred from Chesil Ward to Bridport Ward. It was noted that the Boundary Commission deals only with Dorset Council ward boundaries, and that a potential separate Community Governance review by Dorset Council could address Twon and Parish ward boundaries. The Town Clerk and Cllr Paddy Mooney will send the response in accordance with this decision.

RESOLVED: that the Council oppose the Local Government Boundary Commission Draft Recommendations and support retaining Symondsbury within Bridport Ward, together with the addition of a fourth councillor for Bridport.

The meeting closed at 7.18pm.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 30 November 2026