

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH JANUARY 2016 AT 7.00 PM IN THE PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE, REFORNE

PRESENT: Councillors G. Chadwick (Deputy Chairman), Ms J. Atwell, Mrs S. Cocking, R. Nowak, D. Symes (from 7.05pm) and R. Wild, together with Andy Matthews (Working Group)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk)

264 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. J. Draper, C. Flack, Ms S. Lees, Mrs S. Reynolds, A. Sergison and D. Thurston, together with Sandie Wilson (Portland Port).

265 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Matthews declared his interests as a trustee of the MEMO project and member of the board of Weymouth College.

266 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH DECEMBER 2015

The minutes of the meeting were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.
(For: 4 votes, Against: 0 votes, Abstentions: 2 votes)

267 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

268 – OPEN FORUM

No members of the public were present.

(Cllr. Symes joined the meeting.)

269 – PLAN UPDATE

Mr Matthews apologised on behalf of Paul Weston, who had hoped to be at the meeting, but intended coming to the next. Mr Weston had been working on policy outlines. He had also produced draft aims and objective. When these had been agreed they would facilitate work on the policies. In addition Mr Weston was preparing a document for the Plan which would be an introduction to the Island.

Mr Matthews went on to say that many of the Local Plan policies were generic. Some might suit the Island, but others needed to be more localised. He thought specific policies concerning the centres at Fortuneswell and Easton could help activate grant funding.

270 – CONSULTANCY WORK PLAN

From the chair Cllr. Chadwick asked what was now the intended completion date for the Plan. Mr Matthews explained that delays in producing the Local Plan together with the time and effort spent on the Portland Economic Vision meant that the timetable for the Neighbourhood Plan itself had suffered.

Cllr. Symes said that his training in community rights had shown him that the Island was a complex area, unlike many villages where producing a neighbourhood plan might be more straightforward. He thought there would be little engagement with the public until people could see actual proposals.

Mr Matthews estimated that his Working Group would have something worthwhile to bring to Council by March. This would then enable further grant funding.

271 – DRAFT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Members first looked at the draft aims in detail, then the objectives. Finally in the light of changes made to the objectives they looked again at the aims.

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that the draft aims be accepted as amended. (7-0-0) These aims were as follows:-

Environment – protect the special and unique character of Portland’s natural and built environments and use its natural resources carefully

Business and Employment – strengthen the Island’s business function, building growth and prosperity

Housing – encourage a balanced mix of housing in appropriate places that people need and want

Transport – support non-car travel options and accommodate the car in an unobtrusive manner

Shopping and Services – support the shopping areas and service functions

Recreation – realise the leisure and recreation potential of the Island

Tourism – accommodate responsible and sustainable tourism development

It was proposed by Cllr. Atwell and **RESOLVED** – that the draft objectives be accepted as amended. (7-0-0) These objectives were as follows:-

Environment

- Recognise and protect heritage buildings, spaces and structures and enable the proper use of heritage assets
- Protect and enhance the distinct character of settlements
- Support public realm improvements in identified areas such as the sea wall and West Weares
- Support measures that improve our resilience to climate change
- Make responsible use of the Island’s natural resources
- Identify and promote opportunities to increase renewable and sustainable energy production
- Identify, protect and enhance the Island’s biodiversity
- Support Portland Quarry Nature Park development plan where appropriate
- Support the reuse of redundant mines and quarries in benign and sustainable ways

Employment

- Protect existing employment spaces
- Consider conversions and extensions of local business space
- Consider business hub development in local building
- Set criteria for developing land for business development
- Set criteria for new business development to priority and growth industries
- Establish policy that supports conversion of redundant buildings for business purposes
- Encourage creation of business start-up units
- Encourage and facilitate northern arc master plan approach
- Support development that provides for local education and training opportunities
- Encourage development to bring about better connectivity for all

Housing

- Focus development on brown field sites
- Recognise exception site development to meet affordable housing needs provided by approved providers including Community Land Trust
- Relate housing development to local housing need
- Establish a second home policy
- Set criteria for new housing development including standards and infrastructure requirements

Transport

- Support development which helps facilitate improvements to the public transport network
- Support development which helps facilitate a more effective transport network
- Support provision of off-street parking
- Support improvements to existing footpath, bridleway and cycle routes and extension to the networks

Shopping and Services

- Support existing retail spaces
- Support new shops in appropriate locations
- Define and protect two shopping centres

Recreation

- Support development of leisure and recreation facilities
- Protect and enhance local parks
- Support development of new community buildings and spaces
- Support new facilities for young people
- Support use of buildings or land for events and festivals

Tourism

- Support sustainable tourism-related development in appropriate locations
- Support the creation of individual, or a network of, tourist trails
- Facilitate appropriate new marine developments

272 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Management Group will take place on Wednesday, 10th February 2016, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

Signed: (Chair) Date: