

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7.00 PM IN THE PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE, REFORNE

PRESENT: Councillors J. Draper (Chairman) Ms J. Atwell, Mrs S. Cocking, C. Flack, Ms S. Lees (from 7.03 pm), Mrs S. Reynolds and Rod Wild, together with Andy Matthews (Working Group)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), William Buchan (Working Group) and one member of the public

234 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. G. Chadwick, D. Symes, D. Thurston and Penny McCartney (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council)

235 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Matthews declared an interest as Chairman of the Working Group and a trustee of the MEMO project.

236 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH JULY 2015

The minutes of the meeting were formally agreed and signed as a correct record. (For: 7 votes, Against: 0 votes, Abstentions: 0 votes)

237 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

238 – OPEN FORUM

There were no comments or questions.

239 – PLAN UPDATE

Mr Matthews spoke to his written report. He had spoken to Borough officers about the possibility of their assistance with the Plan, but had received no response yet. Jan Farnan at the Borough had previously sent him a “check list” of items, which was helpful and could be used to take the Plan forward.

He went on to explain that he felt the next stage would involve looking at the various policies contained within the Local Plan together with the land allocations shown. The intention would be to see how these might affect the outcomes of the Economic Vision and Neighbourhood Plan consultations. There might be a need to “localise” policies and assign different land uses.

In the diagrams attached to the agenda Mr Matthews had set out several development ideas to stimulate thinking. He hoped that this approach would be less costly and help focus available resources.

It might be that the Borough officers could concentrate on the policy area sites shown such as Osprey Quay and the Hardy block, allowing the Neighbourhood Plan to link them with proposals for Castletown.

The Borough had several tasks to complete for the Local Development Framework. These included reviews of the Quarry Nature Park, conservation areas, coastal erosion and minerals policy.

(Cllr. Lees joined the meeting during this item)

240 – BUDGET UPDATE

No more expenditure had been incurred.

241 – ECONOMIC VISION

Mr Matthews presented his written report.

The Clerk reported that he had queried the future of the proposed Western Route as an alternative approach to the Island at one of the Economic Vision workshops. David Walsh Economic Development officer at the County had assured him that the redevelopment of the Ferrybridge Inn site would not rule out the possibility of a Western Route being constructed. It was agreed he should write to the County to obtain clarification of this statement.

Mr Matthews confirmed that the Community Partnership had received similar assurance about the Ferrybridge Inn development from the County both at the Local Plan inspection and in writing. The Partnership thought the planners should be more explicit, otherwise potential investors might be deterred.

Cllr. Lees expressed concern regarding bridleways on the Island, that the current Plan made no reference to horse-riding, when in fact there were more than one hundred and fifty horses on Portland.

Mr Matthews explained that work on the Plan indicated that there was a need to manage the footpath network better and the historical laissez faire approach might no longer be appropriate in encouraging tourism.

242 – MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORKING GROUP

Cllr. Draper from the Chair suggested it might be advantageous for communication purposes to have a Town Councillor on the Working Group. It was proposed by Cllr. Reynolds and **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Draper be appointed to the Working Group.

243 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Management Group will be on Wednesday, 11th November 2015, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 7.20 pm.

Signed: (Chair) Date: