

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

**PLANNING & HIGHWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD IN THE PORTLAND COMMUNITY VENUE
ON WEDNESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7.00 PM**

PRESENT: Councillors Charlie Flack (Chairman), David Thurston, Jo Atwell, Jim Draper and Chris Gover

IN ATTENDANCE: Andy Matthews (Neighbourhood Plan Working Group) and one member of the public.

2814 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Rod Wild, Sue Cocking and Rob Hughes

2815 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared

2816 – DORSET COAST FORUM (DCF) – Presentation by Natalie Poulter on the Coastal Community Fund (CCF) and the Victoria Square Project.

Natalie Poulter provided a presentation on the work of the Dorset Coastal Forum and the grant money being sought to implement improvements to Portland Victoria Square – a full report is held at Annex A to these minutes.

2817 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23RD JANUARY 2019

The minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

2818 – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT, MINUTE UPDATE AND OTHER MATTERS ARISING

- i. 2812 (a) – Traffic speeding past the Corner House at Wakeham. The Chairman advised that, to date there had been no response from the Community Highways Officer
- ii. 2812 (d) – The recovery truck parked at Westcliff.
The Chairman stated that he had received a response from the Traffic Commissioner advising that he could find no evidence of the Company holding a goods vehicle operator licence, and that by virtue of the work carried out by the operator a licence was probably not needed. Given this he had no jurisdiction to take any form of action against this Company. He suggested that contact be made with the local police or local authority parking service who may be able to consider regulatory action against the Company.

2819 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no comments from the public. Mr Matthews will report later in the meeting regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

2820 – UPDATE ON CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Chairman provided an update on the current planning applications.
For further information please see Dorset For You / Planning / Portland.

2821 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS NOTIFIED BY WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

The advisory committee discussed 6 new planning applications with a detailed list, including decisions made at this meeting, being held at Annex B to these minutes.

For further information please see Dorset For You / Planning / Portland.

2822 – PLANNING CONTRAVENTION ISSUES

- i. Mr Vincent raised the issue of 35 Easton Square, stating that although the application had been withdrawn (see Annex A to minutes dated 23rd January 2019) there appeared to be work still ongoing, and he sought to understand whether, as he had been informed, a new full planning application had been made.

The Chairman is to check with the enforcement officer to see if he can throw some light on the issue.

- ii. Cllr. Thurston raised the issue of temporary buildings being used to stable horses along Portland Bill Road. Whilst he understood from Cllr. Lees that as long as the building was on skids and was capable of being moved then it could be considered as a temporary building and did not require planning permission. He was concerned that the area was being used for more than the stabling of horses and that the site now housed chickens etc. To add to this there was evidence to suggest that the footpaths were being used by 4 x 4 vehicles to gain access to feed the horses. His concern was that the fragile footpaths were being damaged beyond repair.

The Chairman is to write to the Rights of Way Officer seeking his advice.

- iii. Cllr. Atwell has been informed that permission has been given to locate two shipping containers near the Windmills. In addition, she had also been led to believe that the owners had used razor wire to deter intruders. Whilst she was unable to verify the information herself, she was keen to understand whether anyone else had heard or seen this and was particularly concerned about the use of razor wire which she believed was illegal except in exceptional circumstances. Several Cllrs. mentioned that they were often in that area and would pay particular attention when next there.

2823 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

Mr Matthew's advised the Committee that the Town Council had formally approved submission of the NP at the Town Council meeting last week and as such he was currently awaiting the completion of the Habitats Regulation Assessment to complete this action. He also advised that ACom had confirmed they had been commissioned to complete the

work, with Mr Matthew's urging them to complete the work as quickly as possible in order that the plan could be submitted before the end of March 2019. Submission before this date would hopefully avoid potential further delays with the commencement of the new Unitary Council. He also stated that he understood that Natural England would also be required to comment on the report.

The stated that the new Unitary Council had committed to the completion of a new Local Plan, to cover the whole of its area, by 2023, and to support this had allocated dedicated resource. He added that as the NP had been constructed to be as strategic and forward looking as possible, it was hopeful that the new Local Planning Authority would consider it appropriate to be fully relevant within this updated framework.

Mr Matthews also advised the Committee that he had received a representation concerning the impact of horse numbers on the environment and after speaking to the Local Planning Authority they agreed that any such representation should be made under the Regulation 16 stage of the process.

2824 – HIGHWAY ISSUES

- i. The Chairman highlighted the fact that the work undertaken on patching up the road along Weston Street had not been terribly successful and was already breaking up. Cllr. Gover commented that the lorries were also making a mess and were clearly not washing their wheels.

The Chairman is to write to the Highways Officer and seek some advice.

- ii. Mr Vincent advised the meeting that the lights in Hambro Road car park were not working properly; some were flickering, and some were not working at all. He also mentioned that the lights in the toilet behind the Heights Hotel were on permanently even though the toilets were closed for the Winter.

The Chairman to report the issue to W&PBC Parking Services.

2825 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee's next meeting is to be held on Wednesday, 20th March 2019 in Portland Community Venue, Three Yards Close starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

Signed..... (Chairman)