

## PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

### PLANNING & HIGHWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE PORTLAND COMMUNITY VENUE ON 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7.00 PM

**PRESENT:** Councillors Charlie Flack (Chairman), Sara Harpley, David Thurston, Giovanna Lewis, Pete Roper and Cathy Atkins.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Andy Matthews (Neighbourhood Plan Working Group) and 11 members of the public.

**2859 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Sandy West, Jim Draper, Carralyn Parkes, Berny Parkes, Rob Hughes and Paul Kimber.

#### **2860 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Harpley declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 10a, as she is a resident of the area around Grove Corner.

#### **2861 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2019**

Mr Matthews asked that the meeting note that item 2856 – Para 2 Line 3 – Local shopping areas, should also be read as to include industrial estates; but did not seek a formal amendment to the minutes.

The minutes were formally agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

#### **2862 – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT, MINUTE UPDATE AND OTHER MATTERS ARISING**

- a. **Heritage sites on Portland** – Cllr C Parkes has advised that after the 30<sup>th</sup> of September she would be finalising the list of documents that she intends to access at Kew regarding the listing of the RN Underground Hospital.
- b. **Public transport and access to and naming of the new Lidl store.** The Chairman advised that confirmation had been received that the store would now be named Lidl Portland (and not Weymouth South as previously stated) and that action was still in hand to have the bus service re-routed by First Bus to support the Lidl store. Lidl have been approached to provide anticipated foot fall numbers as evidence to support the request with First Bus, with an additional request to Lidl that they consider the provision of a free bus service.
- c. **Revocation of disabled parking bays.** Notification has been received from Dorset Council that the following disabled parking bays in the following areas are to be revoked:
  - Castletown,
  - Clarence Road,
  - Grangecroft Road,
  - Reforne, and
  - St Martins Road
- d. **Rights of way volunteers.** A request had been received asking that the Council encourage volunteers for Rights of Way. The Chairman proposed that, as there was limited attendance at this meeting that this issue be deferred until the next meeting.

- e. **Overgrown Trees at New Ground.** The Chairman advised that numerous complaints had been received regarding the overgrown trees at the New Ground Car Park viewing area. The Chairman advised that as this was a particularly full agenda that the issue be deferred until the next meeting where more time could be given to this important issue.
- f. **Land availability – Call for Sites.** The Chairman asked Mr Matthews, as lead on the Neighbourhood Plan, to comment on this issue. Mr Matthews stated that he was seeking a mandate from this Committee to be able to speak to the local planning authority on this matter. He explained that the Call for Sites was being made in support to the Local Plan currently being generated by Dorset Council and which sought to include a land strategy for housing and travellers until 2026; noting that the Local Plan was to be complete by 2024. He explained that this call for sites could provide a risk to Portland’s Neighbourhood Plan if the outcome was significantly different to sites currently identified, and advice from the local planning authority would aid the decision on whether the Neighbourhood Plan, would at that point, need to be re-submitted.

**It was resolved that Mr Matthews be allowed speak to the local planning authority.**

- g. **Portland Town Council consultation on street naming.** The Chairman advised that, following an action from the last meeting, a letter had been written to Dorset Council regarding street naming; a response had been received which stated that as the Street Naming and Numbering Authority they had delegated powers to name new streets. They added however, that they would continue to consult with PTC on the naming of new streets but only as required by their scheme of delegation.
- h. **Closure of Bus Stop in Fortuneswell.** Following a request from a resident that the request to consider the closure of the Bus Stop in Fortuneswell be taken to Full Council; the Chairman advised that having considered the issue the Council had not supported the request. The feeling was that the issue had been raised by one person and was not therefore, indicative of the greater view of residents in this area. In the event that a petition was raised which supported a greater number of resident’s views, then further consideration would be given to the request.

## **2863 – 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.

## **2864 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chairman advised that he had received a number of letters which detailed concerns and objections to the proposed development of 106 Weston Road. He advised that anyone who had an objection submit that objection to the Planning Authority via the online portal on the Dorset Council website, however, if no access to the website was available then objections should be submitted in writing. A number of residents present at the meeting wished to make their objections known and the Chairman asked that this discussion be deferred further until that specific planning application was discussed in full under the relevant item of the agenda.

## **2865 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS NOTIFIED BY DORSET COUNCIL**

- a. The advisory committee discussed 9 new planning applications with a detailed list, including decisions made at this meeting, being held at **Annex A to these minutes.**

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

- b. The Chairman advised that he had today, received notification that WP/19/00119/FUL – 34 and 35 Easton Square (Change of use of a building) would now be reported to the Planning Committee on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019. Advising that this was a meeting open to the public he proposed that any comments be made at the point that the planning application was reviewed.

## **2866 – PLANNING CONTRAVENTION ISSUES**

The Committee discussed the following planning contravention issues.

- a. The Chairman advised that he had received notification of a contravention relating to Fishing Hut No 6, Chesil Beach, Portland. The investigating officer confirmed that the hut had been used for overnighting and reminded the owner that this was against planning permission and warned of possible enforcement action should the breaches re-occur.
- b. The second issue related to an email received from a resident of Castle Town who had emailed to say that a boat had been located on the pavement and to add to that had been put behind permanent railings.

**The Chairman is to refer this issue to the Planning Enforcement Officer.**

- c. Urban garden at Wakeham. The Chairman referred to a letter received from a local resident which believed that a recent planning application (WP/18/00583/FUL) should have been referred to the Planning Committee. The Chairman stated that PTC had objected to this planning application but that the objection had been overruled by Dorset Council.
- d. The Chairman also referred the meeting to the two other planning contravention issues which had been issued as Annex B to the Agenda.

## **2867 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)**

Mr Matthews provided an update on the Neighbourhood Plan, stating that the consultation period was due to complete on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019. He explained that the banners had been displayed as proposed, in prominent areas to highlight and promote the consultation period.

## **2868 – HIGHWAY ISSUES**

- a. Grove Corner speed data. Cllr Harpley read out the notes produced to support the request for speed data to be collected. She explained that for a survey to be run for one week it would cost £250.00 (Vat ex) but that there would be a reduced rate for any additional surveys of £175.00 (Vat ex). She explained that once the data had been logged then a meeting would be held with DC and the Police to discuss a forward plan and possible options. She further explained that, having taken advice she had been advised that the most efficient option would be the installation of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) but that DC did not provide these and it would be necessary to fund locally (circa £2k) should this be the preferred option.

**Resolved that Cllr Harpley proceed with arranging for a one-week survey for Grove Corner only.**

- b. The Chairman advised that a request had been received from a resident that sought speed calming measures be employed in Easton Square as both children and adults were being put at risk through speeding cars.

Cllr Thurston added that he was aware that the police were to site further speed camera's in the area at busy times.

- c. A further request sought the fixture of reflector studs on the lane separation islands along Chesil Beach Road. The resident felt that the addition of these studs would make the narrow lanes much safer at night and reduce the risk of scuffing of the protruding island base.

**Action on the Chairman to write to Highways**

- d. Two separate requests had been received requesting the inclusion of an electronic speed warning sign along Weston Road, to counter the busy traffic in this area.

It was agreed that given the work planned to replace the current crossing in this area there would be little to be gained at this point in trying to resolve the speeding issue. The issue is to be revisited following completion of the work.

- e. The Chairman reminded the meeting of a request received previously to re-locate an existing disabled parking bay in Fortuneswell (at the junction of Artist Row) further northwest and replace the existing disabled parking bay with double yellow lines, and to enhance the double yellow lines by installing a series of bollards along the kerb. He asked the meeting if they were happy to formally accept this proposal from DC. A vote was taken, and it was resolved that the proposal be accepted.

**Action on the Clerk to respond to DC affirming support from PTC.**

- f. The Chairman advised of a plan by DC to upgrade the crossing in Weston Road, which had come to the end of its maintainable life, and to install a Puffin crossing with improved technology. He added that it was also the plan to widen the pathways and include a tactile pavement at the crossing point. Work is planned to start on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October and is estimated to take 3 weeks, during which time temporary traffic control signals would be in place.

**2869 – Mining of the Coastal Strip**

Cllr Thurston asked the Chairman if it would be allowable to take the opportunity to appraise the Councillors of a plan that the Stone Firms had provided that related to the mining of the coastal strip. The Chairman agreed that as this was simply to present information that it was allowable.

Cllr Thurston explained that both he and the Chairman were members of the Minerals Liaison Group and had recently attended a meeting, at which the Stone Firms had provided them with advance notification, in the form of a map, which illustrated their proposed mining plan along the coastal strip. The plan, (see **Annex B** to these minutes) shows the intended auxiliary roads together with the proposed mining area; Cllr Thurston stated that the Stone Firms believed that it would take them 3 years to install the auxiliary roads and then a further 12 years to mine the area. This meant that the Stone Firms would not be mining the coastal strip for at least the next 15 years. He added that by releasing this information it was the Stone Firms intention to allay any fears held of immediate mining of the coastal strip.

**2870 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Committee’s next meeting is to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 in Portland Community Venue, Three Yards Close starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8:30

Signed..... (Chairman)