

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2012

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs J Collinge (Chair), Mrs S West and R Wild, together with Mr Michael Kelly and Mr Andrew Matthews (Portland Community Partnership)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), and Jan Farnan and Jane Nicklen (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), together with three members of the public.

13 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. T. Munro.

14 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Kelly declared an interest as planning consultant to the MEMO project.

15 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2012

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

16 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 4 – Need for a Plan

Mr Matthews said that he was a contact for Planning Aid, receiving a monthly newsletter which he would forward to the Clerk for wider circulation.

In connection with the third paragraph Cllr. Wild raised what he called the “contentious issue” of Ferrybridge and the Western Relief Road. Ms Farnan said this project was not in any programme.

17 – INVOLVEMENT OF PUBLIC

The Clerk explained the point of the item. The Council had decided that all meetings of the Working Group should be held in public for the sake of transparency. However as official Council meetings only Group members were allowed to speak. What provision therefore should be made to enable the public to contribute their views?

RESOLVED – that provision be made early in the Working Group meetings for the public to speak with the continuing option to waive Standing Orders later on to provide another opportunity.

Representatives of the Free Portland News who were present said they were happy to publicise meetings in connection with the Plan and Ms Farnan said the open area meetings would give the general public plenty of opportunity to present their views.

18 – PLAN SUB-GROUPS

Members considered how work on the Plan might be subdivided. It was proposed by Cllr. West and **RESOLVED** – that the process start by holding two separate consultation events in Underhill and Tophill.

Division by themes would be left for the time being, rather to wait on what might emerge from the first meetings.

The Group went on to discuss housing on the Island and Ms Nicklen informed members that consultation is about to start on a new Borough housing strategy.

19 – INITIAL PUBLICITY ARTICLE FOR FREE PORTLAND NEWS

Members discussed what might be included in the article and how best to present it and in doing so sought the opinions of the representatives from the Free Portland News. It was agreed that the Clerk should produce the article, guided by the views of Ms Nicklen and Mr Matthews.

20 – CONTACTING THE COMMUNITY

The debate on the previous item merged into discussion of how best to draw in the community to consideration of the Plan. It was agreed to hold the two events mentioned in minute 18 at Underhill and Royal Manor Schools from 3.00pm to 7.00pm. Cllr. Wild was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

21 – FUNDING THE PLAN

Ms Nicklen emphasised the importance of the Town Council writing soon to the Borough to declare its intention of drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan in order to meet national guidelines. £5,000 will be provided by the Government at an early stage to help fund preparation of the Plan with up to another £25,000 at the end. This financing is time-limited. It was agreed the Plan should cover the whole of the Island.

22 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Working Group will take place on Wednesday, 7th November 2012 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm.

Signed: (Chair) Date: