

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY 2013

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs R. Barton (Chair), Miss A. Munro, T. Munro and R Wild, together with Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk) and Paul Weston (Planning Consultant), together with one member of the public

84 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor R. Hughes, together with Jan Farnan and Jane Nicklen (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council).

85 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Barton declared an interest in Portland Port through her employment with Portland Gas.

86 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2013

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

87– MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 73 – Membership of Working Group

Following the recommendation made at the June meeting Cllr. Barton proposed that Mr Robert Lennis be approached with a view to co-option as a lay member of the Group. This was agreed.

88 – OPEN FORUM

There were no questions or comments.

89 – PORTLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

The Clerk reported the Harbour Authority had reservations about the accuracy of the notes made of the joint Port-Borough-Town meeting on 1st July, though Cllr. Tim Munro said he was not aware of much contention at the meeting.

Mr Weston voiced concern about the possible dominance of the business vote in determining the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan, if the Island were to be designated a neighbourhood business area. He thought the standard requirements of the area “being wholly or predominantly business in nature” did not accord with the situation on Portland.

90 – STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Mr Weston said he could not understand why the Borough had expressed a preference for designating Portland, excluding the Port area, as a business neighbourhood area at its Policy Committee meeting on 18th February. He thought that a fifth option should have been considered in addition to the four presented to the Committee, namely that the whole of Portland be designated as a neighbourhood plan area, while recognising the Port area as sensitive in regard to planning issues.

Therefore he recommended producing a draft Statement of Intent to go to the Port and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) for them to consider, while informing the Borough that that was being done.

It was agreed that Mr Weston initiate this course with the hope that the deadline required for a submission to a Management Committee meeting on 6th August could still be met, subject to ratification by the Town Council.

91 – NEXT STEPS

Mr Weston gave a short presentation on how the Plan could be carried forward. In particular he referred to the first two stages of the Plan process, “Getting Started” and “Identify Issues,” which he urged the Council to complete as quickly as possible.

Other points that came out of the presentation include:-

- The Examiner’s report may ask for alterations to be made in the draft Plan in order for basic conditions to be satisfied.
- The whole Plan process is likely to prove costly.
- It may be helpful for the Working Group to be designated the Neighbourhood Plan *Management* Group when the Plan development starts in earnest.
- Good, solid evidence is needed to support the points put forward in the Plan, including an audit trail.
- Plan respondents should be provided with feedback.
- Social media should be used to help propagate the Plan.
- Locality are publishing a new edition of their “road map” in July.

The Clerk was asked to order twenty copies of the road map.

92 – REPORT ON JANUARY CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Mr Matthews spoke to his written report on the Initial Summary. He also referred to the “Working With You” consultation being undertaken by Weymouth & Portland Partnership. Much depended on the settlement of the Plan area.

Cllr. Barton referred to the Spirit of Portland events, while Mr Weston drew attention to the completed Neighbourhood Plan for Eden and the ideas that had emerged in achieving that.

93 – CONSULTATION SURVEYS AND QUESTIONNAIRES

From the Chair Cllr. Barton advised that alternatives be sought to meetings and open consultations in order to elicit people’s views. In particular questionnaires could go out through the social media.

94 – THEME GROUPS

It was agreed to keep to the themes already adopted and await the outcome of the Plan area discussion.

95 – RAISING AWARENESS

This item was passed over for the time being.

96 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Working Group should take place on Wednesday, 11th September 2013, starting at 7.00 pm, unless there was an urgent need to meet prior to that.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm.

Signed: (Chair) Date: