



Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 14 October 2020 via Zoom at 7.00pm.

Members Present: Councillors L Kirk (Mayor), K Green (Deputy Mayor), D Budd, D Cleaton, M Cotton, K Critchley, B Dean, B Ezzard, V Green, M Humphries, S Kemp, M Russell, R Schofield, C Turner

Officers present: V Ricketts, Town Clerk; T Bailey, Committee Clerk

216. Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Z Gover.

Resolved that the apology be accepted and reason for absence noted.

217. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

218. Public participation time

There were 2 members of the public present.

219. Neighbourhood Plan

The Vice Chairman, Dr David Evans, was invited by the Mayor to give an introduction to the changes that had been made to Neighbourhood Plan since its withdrawal.

A vote of thanks was unanimous from the Town Council to Dr David Evans and Hilary Evans for their unstinting hardwork in producing an excellent Neighbourhood Plan document.

Resolved that:

- a) the Wareham Neighbourhood Plan (submission draft) be approved in principle for submission to Dorset Council, together with the necessary supporting evidence.
- b) That the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Steering Group be delegated to make changes to the submission draft prior to submission to correct and improve the presentation of the Plan, providing that these do not significantly alter the substance of the Plan.
- c) That agreement of the independent examiner's appointment with Dorset Council, and any responses to queries raised by the Examiner in the course of the Examination, be delegated to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Steering Group.

220. Government White Paper – Planning for the Future

A number of responses had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting for consideration.

Resolved that the following response be sent to the Planning Directorate.

1. Whilst Wareham Town Council welcomes the objectives set out in the White paper of streamlining the planning process and improving the quality of new housing, the proposals are unlikely to achieve the objectives and could delay the recovery of the development industry and house building. A more effective approach would be a thorough and considered review to simplify and improve the existing planning system.
2. That strategic planning be reintroduced at national or regional/sub regional level to identify areas for growth and areas of restraint and to allocate housing and other development requirements to council areas based on their capacity to accommodate new development. This will provide the essential context for the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans. There should be public consultation as part of the process for preparing these strategic plans.
3. That the proposed reduction in public and thus parish and town council involvement in detailed planning applications is contrary to the principles of local democracy and should not be proceeded with. Town and Parish Councils have an important role to play in representing the community's views on development applications and this role should be retained.
4. That the increased use of digital access is welcomed but consideration should be given to those without access to this technology.
5. That the law on the enforcement of breaches of planning control is strengthened and that greater resources are made available for enforcement by local councils.
6. That the Government's commitment to retaining neighbourhood planning is strongly welcomed.
7. That neighbourhood plans should have the ability to allocate land in their area for growth, renewal and protection, to set out policies for development in each zone and continue to have the powers to be able to prepare design codes and other SPDs to influence the appearance, layout etc of new development.
8. That the proposal to retain the neighbourhood share of the new Infrastructure levy is strongly supported to fund neighbourhood priorities identified in the plan.
9. That Government funding to support neighbourhood planning be continued and where appropriate increased to reflect changes to the system and that all unitary and district councils be resourced to provide adequate technical support to encourage neighbourhood plan preparation across their areas.

221. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Council was scheduled to be held at **7.00pm on 3 November 2020.**

Mayor.....

Date.....

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