

CHRISTCHURCH TOWN COUNCIL

Planning Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 June 2019 at 6.00pm at the Druitt Hall,
High Street, Christchurch BH23 1AJ

Present:-

Chairman: Cllr D Jones

Vice-Chairman: Cllr F Neale

Present: Cllr J A Abbott, Cllr M Cox, Cllr L Dedman, Cllr T Lane, Cllr S J McCormick, Cllr F Neale, Cllr M J Tarling.

Apologies: Cllr S Fotheringham

Offices present: Daniel Lucas, Town Clerk
Susan Roxby, Administrative Support.

14. Election of Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Fred Neale be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the 2019/2020 Municipal Year.

Voting: unanimous

15. Declarations of Interest

Cllr T Lane declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 4 due to having visited 20 Grove Road, East and had met and spoken with the applicant, but had not expressed an opinion and remained present.

16 Christchurch Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cllr Michael Cox joined the meeting at 6.27pm.

The Chairman informed the Committee that a Christchurch Neighbourhood Plan could be created which would form part of the Planning Policy

Framework and would have to be taken into account when considering planning applications for development. The benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan would be:

- opportunity for the Town Council to shape Christchurch going forward;
- greenspaces could be protected;
- financially helpful;
- future proof and protect Christchurch.

The Chairman advised Members that the Planning Committee did not have the power to authorise a Neighbourhood Plan, but it could recommend to Full Council that it considers a Neighbourhood Plan for Christchurch.

The Committee was informed that the 2014 Local Plans were still current and that the review for Christchurch was a matter for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (BCP).

A member reported to the committee that following a review, BCP Council's Local Plan will be in place in 2022.

Members considered that it was a matter of urgency for a Christchurch Neighbourhood Plan to be started and that the Council should make its intentions clear to BCP Council.

The Town Clerk advised Members that the 2014 Local Plan was now old and if the Council based a Christchurch Neighbourhood Plan and housing need on the 2014 Local Plan that it could be working on obsolete figures.

The Town Clerk further advised that the Council could wait to see if BCP Council reviews its position on objectively assessed need and take no action until Planning Consultant's advice had been received.

Following questions by Members, the Town Clerk informed Members that there would be economies of scale if Christchurch Town Council joined in partnership with Highcliffe and Walford Neighbourhood Council in obtaining Planning Consultant's advice, and that the contract would be required to go out to tender, and be on a no obligation basis.

RESOLVED that:

- a) the Town Clerk draft a letter to BCP Council to be considered by all Members at the next Full Council meeting; and**
- b) Christchurch Town Council invite Planning Consultants to provide an introductory Seminar for all Members of the Council.**

RECOMMENDS to Full Council that the Council consider a Neighbourhood Plan for Christchurch Town.

Voting: 7: 0 (1 abstention) (Cllr McCormick requested that his abstention be noted.)

17. **Forging Effective Partnership with BCP Planning**

An oral report was provided by the Chairman informing Members that formerly any Christchurch Borough Councillor had been able to call in a planning application to committee. The BCP Council's constitution did not give a Councillor a right to call in a planning application and there was no provision for a member of the public to call in an application.

In relation to this the Chairman considered that the new BCP constitution was restrictive and not open or transparent. The Chairman felt that a local committee could pick on the local concerns and would like Christchurch Town Council's Planning Committee to be able to make recommendations to BCP Council.

RESOLVED that this item be deferred for a report to be submitted to the next Planning Committee.

Voting: unanimous

18. **Planning Training**

The Town Clerk informed Members that he could contact the Dorset Association of Town and Parish Council to arrange training for planning and asked the Committee if they wished to receive training.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk extend the training budget for Planning Committee members to receive training.

Voting: unanimous

The meeting ended at 7.46pm

CHAIRMAN