

MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 27 January 2025 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Ian Bark (in the chair)

Cllrs: Nigel Amor, Jonathan Bourbon, Kelvin Clayton, Anna Killick, Paddy Mooney, Anne Rickard and David Worthington.

ALSO PRESENT: Three members of the public, and Will Austin (Town Clerk).

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Lewis Gerolemou spoke to request that councillors review an earlier decision not to support parking restrictions in Old Church Road, Bothenhampton. He outlined problems of the pavement being obstructed, with drivers having to pass on the wrong side of the road on a blind bend. He added that emergency vehicles could not pass, and that residents could not see past parked vans. A petition had been signed by 21 people, and Lewis circulated photographs showing possible alternative parking areas. He also displayed a photograph of a lorry on Old Church Road, whose path would have been blocked had there been parked cars there at the time. He asked that councillors support the addition of yellow lines or bollards.

Terry Walker spoke in support of Mr Gerolemou's request. He had moved into the area a few months previously, and a bed delivery had been unable to access Church Rise. This had resulted in the bed having to be carried from some way down the road.

Mark Lane, co-owner of a grade 2 listed property adjacent to The Hyde Care Home in Walditch, spoke in objection to planning application P/FUL/2024/05617 which sought to convert a former stable to bedrooms and ancillary accommodation. He said that:

- The eastern elevation was the boundary with his property, and there were no plans showing this elevation. This was of great concern.
- With the right plans, the building could be put to good use.
- The slate roof appeared to be replaced with metal, which was not in keeping.
- The western elevation showed three air conditioning units close to his property and this raised noise concerns.
- Eleven bedrooms would exacerbate light pollution from an already over-lit property.
- Access would be busier from a poorly maintained road used by cyclists, motorists, horses and pedestrians, and the impact should be considered.
- There was no pavement on this single track road that was used by an increasing number of vehicles.

**79. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sarah Carney.

**80. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**81. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 January 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**82. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

RESOLVED: that the recommendations set out in column 4 of the attached [Schedule A](#) be forwarded to Dorset Council.

**83. PLANNING DECISIONS**

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3968.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

**84. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION MATTERS**

Members considered the request of Mr Lewis Gerolemou for the addition of yellow lines, or bollards, on Old Church Road. All matters raised by Mr Gerolemou during the earlier Public Forum were discussed, alongside the impact of parking restrictions including whether these would simply relocate the problems to another location. It was then

RESOLVED: that the request for parking restriction in Old Church Road not be supported.

Members then considered changes to town centre parking restrictions on market days, including the creation of traders-only and residents-only areas on South Street, and arrangements to allow the use of laybys for parking on weather-affected market days, when they might not be in use. The changes had been approved by Dorset Council, but there had been an adverse reaction from affected residents. Following discussion, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Town Surveyor be asked to engage with affected residents.

RESOLVED: That the Town Surveyor be requested to attend a future meeting of the committee, to consider the matter further.

**85. LICENSING APPLICATIONS**

No licensing applications had been received for consideration at the meeting.

**86. COMMUNICATIONS AND ONGOING ISSUES**

The Town Clerk reported that residents of Osbourne Road had raised concerns and complaints about works in the area of Rawles Way. An enforcement report had been submitted and then withdrawn, following a request from a Dorset Council member, pending committee discussion.

Members considered the matter and indicated informally that the enforcement report should be resubmitted. A site visit should also be arranged.

**The meeting closed at 8.49pm.**

**The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 24 February 2025**