

MINUTES of the meeting of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 17 March 2025 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Ian Bark (in the chair)

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

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Nick Gilbey commented on a licensing application for the Beach & Barnicott, South Street, as owner of a nearby property. He expressed concern that the proposed licensing arrangements would affect the value of his property. He considered late opening until 4am to be excessive. The premises had previously operated successfully and with limited impact using shorter opening times, although Mr Gilbey had experienced some antisocial behaviour and misuse of fire exits.

Cllr David Worthington asked how many people lived near the Beach & Barnicott. Mr Gilbey advised he thought there was one, and that there had previously been others, including tenants at The George public house.

Cllr Jonathan Bourbon asked about proposals in the application to use an outside area. Mr Gilbey said that he had been approached about renting the garden at the rear of his property, but that the request had been declined. He further confirmed that the fire escape route was in his ownership.

Jack Rider-Dobson spoke as co-applicant for application P/HOU/2024/05540. Amended plans had been submitted following concerns about the ridge height and the impact on solar energy generation at the neighbouring property. Mr Rider-Dobson said the design would be in keeping with other properties in the street, and a solar impact assessment has estimated an annual reduction of 0.25% in the neighbour's energy generation capacity, with a value of £1.20.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for their addresses.

95. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Anna Killick.

96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Nigel Amor declared an interest in application P/HOU/2025/01008, as a near neighbour. He advised he would leave the meeting during consideration of the application.

97. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that, subject to amendment to reflect Cllr Sarah Carney's attendance at the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

98. BRIDPORT AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN JOINT COUNCILS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan Joint Councils Committee, held on 27 February 2025, be noted by the Committee and that the decisions therein be adopted.

99. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

Having declared an interest in application P/HOU/2025/01008, as a near neighbour, Cllr Nigel Amor left the meeting for the duration of discussion and decision-making in respect of the application.

100. PLANNING DECISIONS

The Town Clerk reported for information, the planning decisions received relating to applications previously considered by the Committee, ENCL: 3973.

RESOLVED: that the planning decisions be noted.

101. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

The Town Clerk reported that proposed improvements to Sea Road South would not proceed in the financial year 2025/26, as funding had not been made available by National Highways, who had also indicated that it was not a priority project.

102. LICENSING APPLICATIONS

The Committee considered a licensing application in respect of the Beach and Barnicott, South Street, application 075307.

Members discussed:

- Concerns about the proposed opening time until 4.00am;
- Fire exit and evacuation arrangements;
- The inclusion of outdoor live music in the application, and concerns about music volume; and
- Sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises.

RESOLVED: that the following restrictions be recommended to Dorset Council:

- (i) Opening times to accord with those of the Bridport Dagger, including for public holidays.
- (ii) There should be no outdoor music.
- (iii) Access to the fire exit be secure, such that it is available only as a means of emergency evacuation.

103. COMMUNICATIONS AND ONGOING ISSUES

Cllr Sarah Carney queried the sending of a letter to Dorset Council, and an associated press release, expressing concern at the absence of a commitment to provision of affordable housing in the proposed Extra Care Housing development. The Chairman advised that these would be drafted by the Town Clerk on the day following this meeting for immediate sending.

Cllr Paddy Mooney asked why an anonymous objection to a licensing application had been circulated to councillors. The Town Clerk explained that the objector's details were held, but these were not circulated with the objection, due to concerns following a previous unauthorised release of confidential information.

Cllr Paddy Mooney asked whether any town councillor would attend Dorset Council's Planning Committee meeting on 3 April 2025 on behalf of the council, to speak about the proposed development of a retirement community at land off South Street. Cllr David Worthington advised that he would be able to attend.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 28 April 2025