

Minutes of a meeting of the **Policy Group** of the Purbeck District Council held in the Council Chamber, Westport House, Wareham on Wednesday 30 January 2019 at 7.00pm.

Present:-

Councillor Gary Suttle (Chairman)
Councillor Barry Quinn (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Laura Miller, Bill Pipe and Peter Webb

Officers in attendance for all or part of the meeting: Bridget Downton, General Manager – Planning and Community Services; Sue Joyce, General Manager – Resources; Steve Mackenzie, Chief Executive; Kirsty Riglar, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager and Alison Turnock, Natural History and Tourism Manager.

(Note: These minutes have been prepared by officers as a record of the meeting and of any decisions reached. They are to be considered and confirmed at the next meeting of the Group).

40.18/19 **Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Cherry Brooks.

41.18/19 **Urgent items**

The Chairman reported there were no urgent items.

42.18/19 **Public participation time**

Mr Peter Bowyer of Studland requested clarification about the advice provided by the Solicitor to the Council at the Planning Committee meeting earlier in the day, in relation to Policy H14 in the Purbeck Local Plan and asked what scrutiny and evaluation was undertaken of the reports from the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Landscape Officer in relation to planning applications. The General Manager – Planning and Community Services explained that, as the Purbeck Local Plan had now been submitted, it carried a level of weight and legal advice had been received as to which policies could be used with immediate effect. Policy H14 restricted new builds in the AONB to use as principal residences. It was therefore proposed to add such a condition to two applications considered by the Planning Committee for new residential properties within the AONB; this was agreed by the Committee. In relation to the AONB Landscape Officer's comments on relevant planning applications, she explained that scrutiny was undertaken by the case officer, through the internal quality review process and by the Planning Committee.

43.18/19 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2018 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

44.18/19 **Declarations of Interest by Members**

Councillor Bill Pipe declared a personal interest in the item on a proposed street name in Upton as a resident of Upton.

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

45.18/19 **Forward Plan**

Resolved that the Forward Plan be received.

46.18/19 **Local Plan Review**

The General Manager – Planning and Community Services reported that the Purbeck Local Plan was submitted earlier in the week and a planning inspector, Beverley Doward, had already been appointed to conduct an examination of both the Local Plan and the Community Infrastructure Levy schedule. She commended the efforts of both officers and Members in achieving this milestone.

Members expressed their thanks to everyone involved in the process of review and development of the Local Plan, including members of the public who had responded to the consultations. It was agreed that this was a very positive outcome of the review and the examination was now eagerly awaited. It was also acknowledged that reaching this milestone was an achievement in the preparations for local government reorganisation and that the Local Plan contained some interesting policies which would be pertinent across other parts of Dorset when the Local Plan for Dorset Council was developed.

47.18/19 **Adoption of Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan**

The Natural Heritage and Tourism Manager presented a report seeking adoption of the updated Management Plan for the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). She explained that the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 placed a duty on local authorities to produce management plans for AONBs within their boundary. There had been three management plans produced to date, commencing in 2004 and each having a five year duration. The new plan covered the period 2019-2024 and was based on the existing plan, with a light touch review. Input into the draft plan had been provided through expert review groups, a meeting of the AONB Forum and through the public consultation process which ran from August to October 2018. She drew attention to the main changes to the plan from the current iteration and explained that, as the plan was not substantially different, all of the relevant local authorities would be asked to adopt this during February and March to enable it to come into effect before 1 April 2019.

The Environment Portfolio Holder supported adoption of the management plan in readiness for 1 April and commended all officers involved in its development. However, he acknowledged that the outcome of the Glover Review of AONBs and national parks was likely to influence the management plan in the future.

Resolved that a report be submitted to Council recommending adoption of the Dorset AONB Management Plan 2019-24.

48.18/19 Proposed new street name in Upton

The Policy Group considered a report regarding a new street name within a development being built in Upton consisting of 27 properties as there was disagreement between the developer and Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council. The developer suggested Melbury Gardens, which was acceptable to the District Council but rejected by the Town Council, who had suggested a series of alternative names.

Members considered the various names suggested, noting that it was good practice not to give new streets names which were similar to others in the area, as this could impact on the effective delivery of mail and location of addresses by emergency service vehicles. It was also best practice to avoid the names of individuals.

In considering the proposed names, Members noted the Town Council had not recommended a single alternative. However, officers confirmed that if a single suggestion was made prior to the issue being considered by Council this would be reported.

Resolved that a report be submitted to Council recommending the new development in Dorchester Road, Upton be given the name Melbury Gardens.

The meeting ended at 7.24pm.

Chairman