

OPEN SESSION: There was one member of the public present (see attached notes).

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2006 at 2.10pm

PRESENT: Cllr N R G Clarke (Chairman)  
Cllr N J Chard  
Cllr Mrs B Charlton  
Cllr D R Cole  
Cllr T Scriven  
Cllr B H Terry

IN ATTENDANCE: Jo Stannard, Deputy Town Clerk  
Cllr T G Scriven

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Scriven to his first meeting of the Committee. It was noted that he was present as an observer only, as his appointment to the Committee had not yet been confirmed by Full Council.

### **P/4335 ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr M F J Daly.

### **P/4336 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Mrs Charlton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application numbers 88265 and 88267 and left the room during discussion of these items.

### **P/4337 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meetings held on 24<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2006, having been circulated, were approved and signed as a correct record.

*With the agreement of the Committee, planning application number 90378 was considered next for the benefit of the member of public present (see Annex 'A' for observation).*

### **P/4338 SIGNAGE**

The issue of signage had been referred back to the Committee by Full Council. It was noted that the Town Plan Partnership Steering Group had appointed a Project Group to investigate signage issues and report back with proposals, costings and sources of funding, therefore, no further action was required by this Committee. However, members agreed that it would be beneficial for a member of this Committee to serve on the Project Group.

Cllr Clarke reported that the County Council was concerned about the visual intrusion of incremental signage across the county and would therefore be carrying out an audit of signs to consider their location and utility, to determine if some signs may be redundant and to look at improved design to reduce their impact on the environment. As a result of this, there may be funding available to improve signage in the town.

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Terry be appointed to serve on the Signage Project Group.

**P/4339**

**BICKERLEY / POCKET PARK**

Members noted the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces minute (ref OS/4787) regarding the proposed extension of the footpath across the Village Green, and the effect this would have on the width of the road, reducing it by up to 3ft in places.

**RESOLVED:** That the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee's approval of the proposal for kerbing at the Bickerley be supported, and the effect of it on the width of Bickerley Road be noted.

**P/4340**

**APPEAL TO THE FIRST SECRETARY OF STATE**

It was noted that Mr R G Luckie had lodged an Appeal against New Forest District Council's decision to refuse the application for a detached dwelling at land of 14 Field Way (Planning Application Number 86815 refers). The Town Council had recommended that this application be granted permission.

Members did not believe that the site was in a prominent location, as stated in the reason for refusal, and it was therefore

**RESOLVED:** That a letter be sent to the Planning Inspectorate in support of the Appeal by Mr Luckie.

**P/4341**

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACT 2006**

Members received details of this new Act and its impact on town and parish councils.

**RESOLVED:** That the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 be promoted through the Council's website, by way of a link to the energy pages on the District Council's website.

**P/4342**

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK – DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the New Forest National Park Authority had issued a draft Statement of Community Involvement for consultation. It was noted that this document was similar to that issued by the District Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the New Forest National Park Statement of Community Involvement be supported but that no further comments be made.

**P/4343**

**DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS TOUR OF PLANNING SITES**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that members of the District Council's Planning Development Control Committee would be visiting the west of the District on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2006 to look at the results of recent planning decisions made. She had made several recommendations for suitable sites to visit in the town and asked if members had any further suggestions.

**RESOLVED:** That the list of sites suggested by the Deputy Town Clerk for the District Council members visit be approved and that no further suggestions be put forward.

**P/4344**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED**

Planning applications in respect of periods ending 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June and 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> July 2006 were considered.

It was noted that Cllr Cracknell supported planning application number 88206 for the site rear of 41 Christchurch Road.

**RESOLVED:** That the observations as shown in Annex 'A' be submitted.

**P/4345**

**URGENT BUSINESS**

**i) Ringwood School Travel Plan**

It was noted that Cllr Chard had been attending discussions at Ringwood School regarding a School Travel Plan. It was hoped that the Plan would be submitted in September 2006 and that, as a result, funding would be made available to implement some of the proposals in the Plan to improve the health and safety of students. In the meantime, the School had asked the Council if it could assist with improving signage and traffic calming measures in surrounding roads, providing a drop-off/pick-up location near to the school site and installing more litter bins in the area. As the Town Council was not the authority responsible for any of these proposals, it was

**RESOLVED:** That a copy of the School's proposals be forwarded to the relevant officer at New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council.

**ii) Trees**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the District Council's tree officer was concerned about two trees in the town, both of which required felling on health and safety grounds. It was noted that the first tree, a holm oak, was a prominent feature on the Bickerley on the site of the Old Mill Flats, but was riddled with fungus and the second tree, a monterey pine, was on the site of Whitegates in Gravel Lane off which a large lateral branch had fallen last week. Applications for both trees would be received in due course.

**RESOLVED:** That the professional opinion of the District Council's tree officer be supported and that replacement trees be required in both cases.

**iii) New boundary fence at Ringwood Junior School**

It was noted that the Council had been consulted by Hampshire County Council on proposals to replace the existing boundary fence at Ringwood Junior School with a 2.4m plastic coated chain link.

**RESOLVED:** That the proposals to replace the boundary fence at Ringwood Junior School be supported.

**iv) Appeal by Bikers Legal Defence**

It was noted that Bikers Legal Defence had lodged an Appeal against New Forest District Council's decision to refuse the application for retention of a covered store at Unit 3, Carvers Industrial Estate (Planning Application Number 86316 refers). The Town Council had recommended that this application be granted permission.

Members agreed that the proposed store was a modest and visually low impact structure, which was not out of keeping on an industrial estate.

**RESOLVED:** That a letter be sent to the Planning Inspectorate in support of the Appeal by Bikers Legal Defence.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4.10pm.