

Lowestoft Town Council
Meeting of Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee
Video Meeting
15.00 on Tuesday 13 October 2020

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Alice Taylor (Chair), Susan Barnard, Amanda Frost and Bob Breakspear

In attendance: Sarah Foote (Deputy Clerk)

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the meeting and read the video meeting protocol.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Butler and Pearce and accepted (proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Barnard). Cllr Hardie were absent from the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

4.1 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests – Cllr Barnard declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Dip Farm or Gunton Pond area. Cllr Breakspear and Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Kensington Gardens. Cllr Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters related to Fen Park.

4.2 There were no written requests for dispensations for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the meeting of 8 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and would be signed at the next appropriate meeting.

5. Public Forum

No comments had been submitted ahead of the meeting.

6. Plan Development

It was noted that the consultant had supplied a suggested work programme to review the plan and its policies in light of the changes to planning legislation and the impact of covid-19. The Deputy Clerk had submitted an application to Locality for funding to support this work. An outcome was awaited.

7. Planning for the Future White Paper

Various documents had been provided to members to consider and inform a response to this government white paper. It was agreed to make responses to four areas of the white paper and submit these recommendations to the Planning and Environment Committee for approval and submission to government.

1. It was noted that the intention was to make allocations of land for growth, regeneration or protection. It was proposed by Cllr Barnard, seconded by Cllr Frost and unanimously agreed, that this option was not suitable for Lowestoft where, to support the economy, mix uses was needed. People needed to live and work where they shop and get entertainment. There may be areas of heritage that can support development and therefore this proposed zoning was too prescriptive.

2. Design Codes - There is no recognition that place making and achievement of good design need to be inclusive, participatory and creative activities. Neighbourhood plans are mentioned in a few places, but there appears to be a narrowing of their scope onto design codes. There are many mentions of beauty/beautiful design, rather than design being considered in a more meaningful sense, for example pedestrian permeability and connectivity and urban spaces that support social and economic activities. It was agreed that future design should not necessarily be beautiful, which is subjective, but practical to meet local needs. This was proposed by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Breakspear and unanimously agreed

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3. Section 106 and CIL - there was strong agreement that any development related income should remain local and not via the simplification of the current CIL and Section 106 provisions as mentioned in the white paper. Proposed by Cllr Frost, seconded by Cllr Taylor and unanimously agreed.

4. Localism - it was agreed that there is a crucial role for the local voice on planning and development to be heard and that the all sectors of society should be able to engage with the planning process. The government's plans for a standardised data base are aspirational and the required technology may not be accessible for all. The White Paper makes no mention of the Localism Act of 2011 which introduced neighbourhood planning or how the local voice will be facilitated or heard. Proposed by Cllr Frost, seconded by Cllr Taylor and unanimously agreed.

At 15.29 Cllr Butler joined the meeting.

8. Date of the next meeting

4.00 pm Monday 2 November 2020

9. Items for next agenda – consideration of how energy policies can be incorporated into the NDP; sustainability, green energy, insulation, heating, consumables etc.

The Chair closed the meeting at 15.37

Signed: