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NOTES OF MEETING

Meeting: Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting

Date & Time: Monday 6th November at 7.00pm

Place: Council Chamber, The New Town Hall, Commercial Road

PRESENT:

Chair: Cllr David Northam

Steering Group Members: Cllr Ann Weaving, Cllr Colin Huckle, Cllr Lucy Hamilton, Michael Bevan, Penny Quilter, Phil Watts, Rob Cheeseman, Colin Marsh

Project Support: Michele Williams

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION	BY WHOM
1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies:</p> <p>David welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for attending this revised date meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Jane Biscombe, Paul Weston.</p>		
2.	<p>Minutes & Matters Arising:</p> <p>Minutes of last meeting held 4th October were approved.</p>	Upload onto Webpage	Michele
3.	<p>Pre-Election Purdah & Impact on Schedule:</p> <p>David shared the information from Nick Cardnell email as well as what Paul Weston has suggested</p> <p>“It is my opinion that striving to meet the Option 1 submission date would make unreasonable demands on everybody, especially over the Christmas period, and is most likely to be unachievable, because of the volume and nature of comments and representations to be processed and considered. I have serious doubts as to whether a full set of accurate, comprehensive, and high-quality submission documents can be produced in time to be approved by the Qualifying Body (the Town Council) for submission before the end of January 2024.</p> <p>Following the processing task, every comment will need to be analysed and reacted to, not in isolation but in the context of other comments and representations made on the same point. The product of this work. I suggest, needs to be presented to the Steering Group in the form of a Schedule of Suggested</p>		

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	<p>Changes. This should be the basis on which changes and additions to the draft NP should be agreed.”</p> <p>Some discussion had around the 3 options below;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We try to get all our assessment, redrafting and approvals to support submission 15th January. I will work up a timeline for this Plan B 2. We accept the Purdah and aim to provide the Submission Plan in time to start Reg 16 on 3rd May. Call this Plan C. 3. We challenge the decision by Dorset Council so that we can revert to Plan A. <p>The following discussion points raised:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can DC actually delay the Plan, in essence yes although they do have timescales they have to work to; - Phil advised will not vote on anything as he has a professional interest; - Question on whether Purdah means we cannot proceed during Purdah, legally no they cannot use that as an excuse as the Neighbourhood Plan is not a political issue; - Colin raised need to make sure that we do not do anything that is against advice from Paul who is the expert in this field, David does not think that we would do anything that would trip us up and will definitely follow any expert advice given. - Question about what Paul meant when he referred to the plan as being ‘imperfect’ <p>UPDATE: Paul was referring to the fact that the plan does not have all the final maps included, nothing to do with the content of the plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to check with AECOM about the format that the maps are in and as to whether they can OS Maps which are clearer. - Phil did query where the figures came from – David confirmed they came from Nick Cardnell directly. - Can we challenge Dorset Council in terms of the process? If/when we submit our plan to DC they have a limited time to process it, so cannot hold up the process. 		

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	<p>Agreed to send a letter to DC that any delay which happens during Purdah using reason of the plan being political matter is invalid and would be at our detriment.</p> <p>Agreement that we would work on Option A but if we have to slip then will not be much difference between Option B & Option C. Will need to confirm with Paul as to whether he is available to support after 31/12/2023, which is when he is currently contacted to.</p>	Letter to DC	David N
4.	<p>Discussion around Reg 14 Consultation:</p> <p>Confirm that the following are planned;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drop-in events around Weymouth – would be nice for all members of the SG to attend at least one to support; - Public Meeting on 4th December at Town Hall; - Leaflet drop via Royal Mail to every household; - Radio advert to go out on Greatest Hits Radio for whole period of consultation; - Theme group blogs on social media; - Weekly reminders about the events happening on social media 		
5.	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>Colin: Advised that Councillor O’Leary has asked for a meeting, unclear what this would achieve and he welcome to attend the drop-in sessions. But Phil happy to meet with him as a resident member of the group – rather than a councillor – agreed way forward.</p> <p>Colin will with Anne’s support attend the meeting on the 14th November in Preston.</p>		
7.	<p>Dates of Future Meetings:</p> <p>Date: Monday 11th December 2023 Time: 7pm Venue: Council Chamber Apologies: Michele Williams</p> <p>Future Agenda Items: Need to agree dates for new year</p>		

Meeting ended at 9:10pm