

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 11th September 2019 at 7.00pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood.

PRESENT: Cllr Tony Ring, Town Mayor
Cllr Philip Day, Deputy Mayor
Cllr Andy Briers
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr Gareth Deboos
Cllr Hilary Edge (*from 7.03pm*)
Cllr Rae Frederick
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Jeremy Heron
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly
Cllr Glenys Turner

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk
Nicola Vodden, Meetings Administrator

ABSENT: Cllr Christine Ford
Cllr Darren Loose
Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine

C/6347 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one member of the public who wished to speak in support of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Edge joined the meeting at 7.03 pm.

He explained the benefits if Ringwood had a Neighbourhood Plan in place indicating that, unlike the Town Plan 2008, it would be part of planning law and would give the Council a say in future development. He gave examples of where this could make a difference and where there could be benefits to the town. His view was that the Council and the community should have a say in how the town evolves and a NP provides this opportunity.

C/6348 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ford, Loose and Rippon-Swaine.

C/6349 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared at this time.

C/6350 PRESENTATION FROM NFDC CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER

Members received a presentation from Claire Upton-Brown, NFDC's Chief Planning Officer in respect of Neighbourhood Planning outlining:

- the role of Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans
- importance of engaging with the planning authority (NFDC and NFNPA) and its supporting role
- how to approach the preparation of a NP and content
- key questions to consider when deciding whether and how to proceed.

She indicated that Neighbourhood Planning provided an opportunity for local communities to shape development in their area and advised that it was important to set local priorities and standards from the outset, being clear about what a NP aimed to achieve. It would be supplemental to the Local Plan and could not contradict it.

It could be a lengthy and complex process, which needed community engagement to drive it forward and be evidence based for it to satisfy the viability and deliverability tests required by the Planning Inspectorate. She suggested that the Council considered whether there is an alternative means of achieving the aims identified.

In answer to questions, she provided information on other Town and Parish Councils who had commenced work on NP's, the update to housing needs calculations, the need to review a NP in line with review of NFDC's Local Plan and how Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is apportioned, should a NP be implemented.

C/6351

PRESENTATION BY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING CONSULTANTS

Consultants Oneill Homer (who assisted New Milton with its Neighbourhood Plan) gave a presentation on its experience of Neighbourhood Planning.

The presentation included:-

- benefits of a NP
- the 'basic conditions' that a NP must meet
- the pressures and challenges,
- process and roles in terms of plan making, engagement and governance
- an outline of the professional support available
- timeframe, costs and other considerations
- examples of NP's

C/6352

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Members considered a motion deferred at the Full Council meetings on 28th November 2018 (C/6227 refers) and 15th May 2019 (C/6311 refers).

Cllrs Briers, Day and Ring, who were in favour of proceeding towards the next stage of a Neighbourhood Plan, had submitted a briefing paper prior to the meeting, which the Town Clerk had circulated to Members.. As a matter of record, Cllr Day read the briefing paper.

Cllr Deboos left the meeting briefly whilst the paper was being read.

A discussion followed and various scenarios and views were aired in support of and against a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). There was a diverse range of opinion on the many factors (achievability, costs (officer and consultant), increase in share of CIL receipts, community engagement, the NP process, etc.), to be taken into account, in deciding whether to take this

next step in exploring if a NP would be of benefit to the town. It was important initially to determine the scope of any proposed NP, what grants were available and the strength of community feeling with regard to a NP.

There was some discussion whether the requirements of the motion being considered fell within the remit of the Town Clerk's role or whether this should be allotted to the NP process. At this stage, the Town Clerk would proceed as he would with any other decision the Council made. It was felt important that a record be kept of officer time devoted to a NP, for future reference.

It was agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the meeting to continue past 9.00pm.

Cllr Day proposed the motion, and this was seconded by Cllr Briers.

Cllr Heron proposed an amendment to the motion for the matter to come back before the Full Council rather than the Planning, Town and Environment Committee. Members did not support the amendment and the vote was recorded as follows:-

For:- Cllrs Edge, Heron and O'Reilly (3)

Against:- Cllrs Briers, Day, Deboos, Frederick, Haywood, Kelleher, Ring and Turner (8)

Members considered the substantive motion, without amendment. The vote was recorded as follows:-

Provided that this motion is decided by a simple majority, that the Council implements its previous decision (C/6198 refers) to proceed towards adopting a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) by:

Part (i) Instructing the Clerk to prepare draft terms of reference for consultants to prepare an initial report and to advise generally (such draft to be considered at the next available meeting of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee)

For:- Cllrs Briers, Day, Deboos, Frederick, Haywood, Kelleher, Ring and Turner (8)

Against:- Cllrs Edge, Heron and O'Reilly (3)

Part (ii) Approving the use of the existing budget for the engagement of consultants on such terms as are approved (effectively limiting the immediate financial commitment to £3,000).

For:- Cllrs Briers, Day, Deboos, Haywood, Kelleher, Ring and Turner (7)

Against:- Cllrs Edge, Heron and O'Reilly (3)

Abstention:- Cllr Frederick (1)

RESOLVED: That the motion be carried.

ACTION	C Wilkins / J Hurd
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There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 9:40pm.

APPROVED
25th September 2019

TOWN MAYOR