

Minutes of the Environment & Planning Committee
held on 20 February 2020 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr Bowden, Cllr Irven, Cllr Murphy, and Cllr Westcott (Chair)

In attendance: Jo Grellier - Clerical Officer, and one member of the public

20/69B To receive apologies for absence: Cllr Westcott proposed that *'the apologies from Cllrs de Renzy Martin, Johnson, and Ellwood are accepted'*. Seconded by Cllr Irven. Carried.

20/70B To receive Declarations of Interest: None to declare

20/71B Consultation by Somerset West & Taunton Council on the Local Plan 2040:
A discussion took place regarding the public consultation that took place on 11 February 2020, to which several members attended. Cllr Irven proposed *'delegation is given to Cllr Murphy to draft a collaborate response and email to Environment and Planning members for approval before presenting at Full Council in March'*. Seconded by Cllr Westcott. Carried.

20/72B West Street Car Park

(i) To consider a quotation from a local civil engineer to undertake works to tidy up the surface of the car park – the attached quote was circulated prior to the meeting as **Appendix 2a**.

The quotation is to supply an excavator and roller, with operators to scrape off the mud and vegetation from the car park area and remove from site. To grade and compact existing sub-base as required. The work is expected to take two days. The Groundsman has recommended that the quote for net £1800 with the additional 15 tons type 1 sub-base net cost £340.00 is accepted. Cllr Irven proposed *'the quotation of £2,140 to allow for the works and sub-base to be completed is approved ensuring that the quotation acceptance to the Civil engineer is very precise to reiterate that under no circumstances is weed spraying to be conducted on site'*. Seconded by Cllr Westcott. Carried.

(ii) To note a letter to the Conservation Society regarding the management of weeds in the car park – the attached letter was circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk has received a response from the Chair of Conservation Society, and he is going to approach this matter with members and volunteers of the 'Wild Flower Project'. Cllr Murphy proposed *'the Committee note the correspondence and any further correspondence is put on the agenda for the next meeting'*. Seconded by Cllr Irven. Carried.

20/73B Bus Accountability Assembly:

(i) To consider appointing a member of the Committee to attend the assembly on 27 April 2020 at the Taunton Academy – **Appendix 3**

Cllr Murphy expressed an interest in attending the Assembly as he was heavily involved back in January 2018 when he met with Managing Director of First South West regarding the overcrowding concerns on the 28 Bus service. Discussion ensued and Cllr Irven proposed *'Cllr Murphy is delegated to represent Watchet Town Council at the Bus Accountability Assembly on 27th April 2020 and a call for resident comments on their experiences on the 28 Bus route is promoted on social media'*. Seconded by Cllr Westcott. Carried.

20/74B Matters for the next meeting

- Conservation Society correspondence - 'Wild Flower Project'
- Liaise with the Clerk

Plans to be discussed:

20/75B To discuss items received from the planning authority requiring attention prior to the next Somerset West & Taunton / Somerset County Council / Planning meetings:

- (i) Update of the meeting held on 18 February 2020 between representatives of Watchet Town Council and District ward members to discuss Planning application 3/37/18/015, Land at Cleeve Hill, Watchet which was considered by the Planning Committee (SW&T) at the meeting held on 30 January 2020.

Cllr Irven reported the following: Delegation was given for him to attend and speak at the Planning meeting regarding 3/37/18/015 Cleeve Hill, Watchet planning application on 30 January 2020. The application was deferred.

On 18 February Cllr Irven and Cllr Westcott met with three District Councillors, a member of neighbouring Washford Parish Council and an expert Geologist. The following errors in the process at the SW&T planning meeting on 30 January 2020, especially in relation to 3/37/18/015 were put forward:

- Overlooked and ignored Watchet Town Council comments from Nov 2019 which were not available in time for SW&T planning Committee, nor considered or answered in officers report to meeting.
- No geological report completed and available – despite being identified in officers own earlier report, who like Watchet Town Council recommended resubmission and consideration only when available.
- No Assessment of stability of site
- No economic viability assessment of site
- Not meeting 35% affordable housing requirement
- No answering of concerns over discrepancies with drainage
- No proper assessment by Highways, both re-siting of B3191 and effect on traffic in West Street
- No consideration of impact on infrastructure in Watchet Doctors, etc
- Why brought forward now, when originally post 2026 in later part of 2032 plan if other mixed primary sites not developed.
- Why Somerset County Council were allowed to propose a new road layout through the site before sharing with Blue Anchor to Watchet Options group, and without showing new layout of proposed housing.

RECOMMENDATION:

'The Clerk is delegated to write a further letter detailing our concerns, not only on this application but all future applications'

Cllr Irven circulated a draft letter to members outlining the concerns to assist in formulating the final letter.

Cllr Murphy commented that the Committee should most definitely make comment on the current process and proposed ***'delegation is given to the Clerk to write a letter to the Planning Office using information provided in the draft letter produced by Cllr Irven at todays meeting'***. Seconded by Cllr Westcott. Carried.

Cllr Westcott thanked Cllr Irven for taking the time to conduct his report.

NO PLANS RECEIVED

The meeting closed at 7.10pm

Signed:.....


Date:.....
a/3/2020