

PAIGNTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

- Clifton with Maidenway
- Collaton St Mary
- Goodrington with Roselands
- Kings Ash
- Preston
- Roundham with Hyde
- and Hookhills



MINUTES OF FORUM & STEERING GROUP MEETING

held in the Gerston Chapel Hall, Torquay Road, Paignton
at 6:30pm Thursday 17 October 2019

www.paigntonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk

www.torbay.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning

In Attendance: Eric Barbe, Jim Bonfield, Carole Box, Helen Boyles, Roger Bristow, Anne-Marie Curror, Ian Curror, Vanessa Davies, Rob Davies, Paul Forset, Catherine Fritz, Lorna Gardner, Chris Harvey, Alan Hill (Acting Chairman), Nigel Jones, Janet Jones, Helen Kummer, Maggie Loates (Acting Secretary), Leaf Lovejoy, Roz Morrell, Sam Moss, Richard Parish, Mike Parkes, Richard Stevens, Robert Vincent, Jean Vincent, David Wotton

Agenda Item 1: - Apologies received and welcome

Apologies: Angela Ainscough, Louise Thompson, Pam Bristow, Paula Hermes, Jackie Leigh, David Pickhaver

Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He announced that the Council were printing some additional copies of the Paignton Neighbourhood Plan (**PNP**). He also indicated that Dave Watts had inserted a tribute to David Watts on the PNP website, which was approved unanimously by the Forum.

Agenda Item 2: - Draft minutes and matters arising

Draft minutes. The Chairman stated that an informal meeting had been held on 17 September 2019, at which notes were taken but not minuted, which was followed by a minuted extraordinary meeting on 2 October 2019. The draft minutes of the meetings held on 15 August 2019 and 2 October 2019 were approved. Proposed by Maggie Loates (**ML**) and seconded by Mike Parkes (**MP**).

Matters arising.

Protecting the integrity of the PNP. MP said action was needed to monitor the Planning Committee (**PC**) meetings. The Chairman, on behalf of PN Forum had filed a complaint with Torbay Council (**TC**) expressing concern that PC members had appeared to have no, or insufficient, training in planning matters. An FOI request had also been submitted by a Forum member regarding what training had been provided. RB stated that TC had now instituted a training programme for PC members. The PC meeting on 9 September had allegedly not been recorded, but following a letter from the Forum, meetings were now being recorded.

Land Release Fund (LRF). TC OSC held a meeting on 19 September 2019, which was attended by numerous Forum members. David Watts had previously written to the Parliamentary Ombudsman (**PO**) regarding the LRF. The Chairman stated that the PO had email correspondence with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (**MHCLG**) and had set a deadline of 14 October 2019 to provide a response. The next meeting of the OSC will be on 29 October 2019.

Planning Committee. RB noted that South West Water (**SWW**) had reported that there was no problem with the drainage system on the Taylor Wimpey (**TW**) site on Totnes Road. Nigel Jones (**NJ**) raised the issue of Brokenbury Sewage Works and Carole Box (**CB**) said it was under review. LL said tankers observed leaving Brokenbury have been stated to be taking biosolids (treated sewage sludge) for use as fertiliser on fields in the Kingsbridge area, common industry-standard practice. MP felt we needed a checklist re the harms which outweigh the 5-year supply. The Forum needs to send objections to officers and councillors. The next meeting of the PC will be on 11 November 2019.

Agenda Item 3: – Moving Forward

3(a) Financial Report. The Chairman reported that the Forum currently held £12,172. He noted that this amount would not be replenished and the Forum should consider how to raise funds for future needs.

3(b) Succession Planning. The Forum was constituted on 17 September 2011. The Chairman noted that Sam Moss (**SM**) and NJ had volunteered to be the Forum's legal team. ML, MP and Angela Ainscough had volunteered to share secretarial duties. ML had offered to be a signatory on the Forum's bank account, but we also need another person. The Chairman noted that Torquay Neighbourhood Forum conducted all their business on-line by email. The Forum needs volunteers to come forward. People are needed in each ward to review planning applications. The Forum also needs a publicity officer. LL noted that the Forum needs new members.

3(c) Constitution. The Chairman showed the Forum several alternative ways to describe the Hookhills district, which is in the Churston and Galmpton Ward of Brixham, although it is included in the PNP area. The Forum decided to designate it just as "Hookhills" on the Forum logo. David Wotton (**DW**) stated that the Forum Constitution was out of date and he had updated certain clauses. For instance, in the Aim & Purpose section, the bullets should be changed to subparagraphs. The revised version should be sent to the membership for comment. NJ said that the aims should be changed to objectives and need to be clearer to protect the PNP. MP noted that the Constitution must be watertight.

Agenda Item 4: - Project Plan progress – Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring & Review

4(a) Council/Forum Reference Group meeting 14 October 2019 – outcome. The Chairman reported that the chairs of all three Forums met with councillors and discussed the neighbourhood plans, including the 5-year housing supply. The Chairman noted that the NPPF was only advisory. The Council and Forums will be writing to the MHCLG about the housing supply in the next 2 weeks. A draft of the letter will be available on 4/11. Housing must be fully planned in the next 3 years.

4(b) 5 year land supply 'Action Plan' – for discussion. RB stated that the land supply was not the sites available for building, only those which have been allocated. LL raised the issue of housing which had remained unoccupied for over 6 months and how to remedy that. CB stated that the Forum had to get the information out regarding single use housing and boarded up shops. DW noted that the availability of jobs leads the housing supply, not the other way round. He had submitted an FOI to TC re the number of new jobs attributable to the South Devon Highway. TC's response was that no new assessment had been done, TC doesn't do this, and we should ask Devon County Council for the information. The planning application to convert The Lighthouse, formerly Dellers Summer Cafe, into a hotel was raised. It was suggested that people in the Ward should be asked to monitor this.

4(c) Outcome of Planning Committee meetings 9 September 2019 and 14 October 2019 – your views. See Agenda Item 5 below.

Agenda Item 5: - Explain Legal procedures.

The Chairman reported that in view of the PC's approval of the Little Blagdon Farm application, the Forum had taken legal advice to determine what procedure would be appropriate. NJ stated that they were advised that there were no grounds for a judicial review (JR) because the decision was based on the LRF, which was an administrative matter, not planning. In addition, we were out of time and a JR would have been cost prohibitive.

SM responded that the Forum could have issued a letter of intent, to which NJ replied that we had no grounds based on planning. SM stated that he had sought alternative legal advice. Friends of Little Blagdon Farm (**FLBF**) had initiated a JR under the Aarhus Convention which limits a group's liability to £10,000. FLBF were awaiting a response from TC. SM stated that FLBF would need funds to cover costs. MP proposed and ML seconded that the Forum should help FLBF with its JR. It was unanimously agreed to provide £2,000 towards the costs.

NJ read out the legal provisions for a JR, including the time constraints and costs. He stated that Torquay Neighbourhood Plan had instituted a JR on the PC's decision to allow the demolition and replacement of the Corbyn Head Hotel, and was concerned about costs.

Additionally, the Forum had requested that the SOS, MHC&LG call in the TW application, which was deferred by the PC at the 9/9 meeting, to the Secretary of State. This has been continued to

14/10. NJ read the letter, which was sent along with RB's recording of the meeting, basing the requested refusal on PNP24. Taylor Wimpey may appeal.

Agenda Item 6: - Update skills register.

CB circulated her spreadsheet requesting Forum members to provide information on skills they might contribute to supporting the PNP and Forum going forward.

Agenda Item 7: - Any other business.

Chris Harvey (CH) stated that the Forum needed to broaden its scope. Good on-line content was needed. TC is ignoring us. We need to use technology to attract younger members who are not yet engaged. We must organise. LL said we need a locality website and community action. CB said we need to change the mindset of the council and officers. Roz Morrell stated that Ed Oldfield from Devon Live wants to see locations and follow up on planning issues. She has set up a meeting with him at 11am on 21 October in Collaton Parish Rooms – downstairs.

Agenda Item 8: – Next Meeting

To ensure progress, the next meeting date agreed by the Forum will be on:

Forum & SG	Thursday 14 November 2019	Gerston Chapel Hall (Gerston Place)
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The meeting starts at 6:30pm and we aim to complete our meeting by no later than 8:30pm. Further dates in 2019 agreed by the Forum are shown on our website to ensure progress of the Plan.