



MINUTES

OF MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

Wednesday, 27th October 2021, 7-9pm

- Welcome and apologies

Present: Penny Tarrant (Chair), Hilary Kolinsky, Jacky Clift, Pam & Dave Ward, Martin & Carole Worrall, Sue MacDonald, Ana Lambert, David Bennett, Gail Mallard, Keith Tarrant

Apologies: Barbara, Cllr. Chris Penberthy, Angela, Joan, Kim

- Guest – PCSO Tracy Cunningham (to be confirmed)

- Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising
 - Pedestrian traffic light near Walrus – Chris P ongoing action
 - Plymouth House – Chris P ongoing action to find out what's happening
 - Lockyer St. charging points – ongoing action for Chris P to find out what's planned

- Councillors' report (Sue)

Sue reported that Chris, Ian and Sue walk the entire ward on a Tuesday, including door-knocking. Chris looks after the Hoe area. Sue tends to focus on SW part of the ward.

Currently campaigning on weeds in pavements. Sue has noticed that the road surface is eroded in Pier Street – she has notified the council and hopefully this will result in Council action. Penny commented that weed spray has on occasion affected plants in people's front gardens. It would be nice for residential properties to be able to opt out of weed spraying, as happens in Exeter.

Sue noted problems in West Hoe Park. Ana commented that litter and anti-social behaviour have improved due to bad weather. The problem is predominantly 14-15 years, but young adults too which is a concern. The police have logged and registered the problem. Ana suggested that an additional bin might help the situation. Penny stated that Chris has

previously advised that multiple agencies are involved.

Penny noted that many people have queried the electric charging points and whether these will remove regular parking spaces. Dave stated that Lockyer Street was a particular concern. **Action: Councillors to ask the ruling group what the electric charging points plan is, and what the impacts will be on available parking.**

- Planning report (Martin)

See attached report.

Martin reported that various members had given him feedback objecting to the BT street hubs proposal in the conservation area. Penny put the objection to the meeting and it was agreed that the group supported an objection on behalf of the forum. **Action: planning sub-group to submit objection to street hub on Citadel Road.**

Martin reported that PCC Historic Environment team had objected to the Pier One balcony extension on similar grounds to the HNF objection, including the erosion of public access

Dave noted that a new boutique hotel / guest house has opened on Elliott Street – The Craft House. This is positive, especially in the context of the closure of guest houses.

Penny noted that the Dome would open on 1st November, and noted the forum's support for two new businesses in the forum area.

- Public access to the waterfront (Jacky)

Penny thanked Jacky for her endeavours on this issue. Jacky reported there are no public rights of way, but the foreshore land between Hoe Road / Madeira Road and the water is 'open access land'. This has some protections, but evidently (from Pier One and Maritimo) protections are not guaranteed. Jacky reported that Natural England have a plan for a coastal footpath all around Great Britain which would take the coastal path closer to the waterfront. Once agreed, all land between the footpath and the water would be open access except where it's private land – which would include privately leased land. Jacky has been in dialogue with James Watt, PCC Land & Property, who has confirmed that Pier One are obliged to maintain public access via the steps through their site except for security at night. Maritimo are not obliged to do so. At Phoenix Wharf there is a 2m space for public pedestrian access around the wharf, but not for mooring boats.

Jacky has concluded that we should aim to cover this as part of the neighbourhood plan. Jacky reported that Penny, Hilary and Jacky have formed a sub-group to ensure that the Foreshore is covered in the neighbourhood plan in a way that balances the interests of business, the public and the environment. Penny reported that we have identified evidence that would support open access in the JLP and other local documents which provides a good evidence base. Martin stated that Chris has previously reported that the agreement of leases is not a planning matter so this will still be a potential issue in future. Jacky has invited Patrick Knight to speak to HNF at a future meeting in relation to the National Marine Park plans and consultation. Sue agreed that these issues should be closely scrutinised, and advocated for a direct meeting between HNF and James Watt + Patrick Knight, potentially including Chris.

Sue noted that covid measures had permitted unlicensed external seating for businesses. Penny suggested that post-covid if a charge is reintroduced it could be ring-fenced for foreshore improvements.

- Neighbourhood Plan progress (Hilary)

Hilary reported that the sub-groups are meeting and working through the Aecom and PCC feedback making steady progress with the redraft in response to their comments. Housing feedback has just been received. The Blue & Green group have asked for further information from PCC on the pros and cons of Local vs Strategic greenspace – PCC have suggested that the Hoe be allocated as Strategic greenspace. Jacky asked whether a deadline had been set for completion. Penny stated that completion by the May 2022 election will not be possible as further PCC and Inspector reviews are needed before the draft can be submitted for referendum, so we will aim for May 2023.

- Register Office update (Penny)

Penny reported that the Register Office site is also linked to this process as we have been progressing a feasibility study for a community-led housing scheme on the site, potentially with a Neighbourhood Development Order. HNF have made quite a lot of headway with the architect's feasibility study which has been well received by Paul Barnard. Jacky has applied for Locality funding to support the next stage of technical support which will comprise a viability study to drill down into the cost and deliverability of the scheme. It is quite a sensitive site so only limited information can be released, but the feasibility aligns with the community consultation that HNF undertook.

- AOB

Penny reported that plans for the community cook-out are underway, pending risk assessments, hygiene certs, and covid-concerns.

Penny is hoping to organise a Wassail at the orchard in early new year.

Penny thanked the HNF members who continue to support community members with shopping needs post-covid. Anyone who needs support can still come forward for neighbourly help.

Penny noted that attendance was down and asked for comments on whether this might improve when we can meet in person again. It was agreed to hold the November meeting on zoom, and try for a Christmas or New Year in-person meet subject to the covid situation and guidance.

- Next meeting (24th November 21)