

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the **PLANNING AND CONSULTATION COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **FRIDAY, 22nd APRIL 2022** at **9.30 a.m.**

Chair: -

Councillor M Bonfield

Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor T Foster

Swanage Town Council

Councillor A Harris

Swanage Town Council

Councillor M Whitwam

Swanage Town Council

Also in attendance: -

Miss N Clark

Administration and Communications Manager

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

Public Participation Time

There were no matters raised.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Finch and Rogers.

2) Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with paragraphs 9 – 13 of the Council's Code of Conduct and regulations made under chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

Planning

3) To consider planning application regarding the building of an Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) (Waste Incinerator) in Portland, Dorset - application number WP/20/00692/DCC

WP/20/00692/DCC

Portland Port, Castletown, Portland DT5 1PP

Construction of an energy recovery facility with ancillary buildings and works including administrative facilities, gatehouse and weighbridge, parking and circulation areas, cable routes to ship berths and existing off-site electrical sub-station, with site access through Portland Port from Castletown.

OBSERVATION: Recommend refusal, major concerns are raised regarding the proposed location of the ERF, which are set out below:–

- **Potential adverse impact on air and water quality**
- **Potential adverse impact on Dorset's Marine Conservation Zones**
- **Potential adverse impacts on local SSSIs, SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites, and the Dorset AONB**
- **Potential adverse impact on the status of the Jurassic Coast as a UNESCO World Heritage Site** - attention is drawn to the fact that this is England's only natural World Heritage Site, inscribed by UNESCO in 2001 for the outstanding universal value of its rocks, fossils, and landforms.

Comments are made that it is only 20.5 nautical miles from Peveril Point, Swanage to Portland Bill, Portland, and approximately 19 nautical miles from Peveril Point to Portland Harbour, and that 80% of prevailing winds are south westerly, which means that emissions from the proposed ERF will most likely travel across to the Swanage/Purbeck area. It is also possible that emissions could disperse over the area in rain clouds, having an adverse impact on the important ecology and habitats of the area, and on water quality. Following processing, the remaining bottom ash from the ERF will also have to be transported from the plant via land or sea.

Concerns are raised that the carbon capture technology does not appear advanced enough to deal with the emissions which will be generated (burning approximately 202,000 tonnes of waste per annum, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year for 30 years).

Traffic generation (by land and sea)/impact on environment – concerns regarding the proposed daily volume of HGVs (40 per day) and the adverse impact that this could have on local infrastructure, traffic volumes (in particular on the A35 and the A354 which already suffer from regular instances of acute traffic congestion and gridlock), and the environment (including fumes/pollution from the diesel engines).

Further concerns are raised regarding the arrival/docking of additional vessels in Portland Port (which is a busy working port and also a popular tourist destination), bringing waste to the ERF by sea, and the potential for waste/debris to enter the sea, and the future management of that waste, which could have a significant adverse impact on local wildlife/marine life.

Dorset Council, Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (CEES) and Action Plan, and Swanage Town Council, Environmental Policy and Action Plan - the proposals are considered to be in contravention of the Councils' environmental policies and action plans.

Attention is drawn to Dorset Council's CEES, page 9:

Waste - Dorset Council collects in the region of 180,000 tonnes of waste every year – 60% of this waste is reused, recycled or composted. This places Dorset Council as one of the best local authorities nationally. Reusing, recycling and composting waste has a much greater carbon benefit compared to incineration or landfill. This success has been recognised by the Eunomia Recycling Carbon Index ranking Dorset within the top 10% of all local authorities for the past seven years.

The Town Council would also wish it to be noted that it supports and endorses the concerns and objections as detailed in the attached document dated 20th March 2022.

It was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Harris and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That Swanage Town Council objects to the building of an Energy Recovery Facility (waste incinerator) in Portland Port, Castletown, Portland, Dorset, application number WP/20/00692/DCC, and submits its concerns to Dorset Council as set out above.

Thanks were given to Councillor Harris for research undertaken, and collation of information for the meeting.

4) **Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas**

There were no matters raised.

5) **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Monday 9th May 2022.

The meeting closed at 10.00 a.m.
