

STALBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: T Watson

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Approved minutes of extraordinary meeting of the Town Council.

On Wednesday 26th October 2016

Present Councillors G Carr-Jones (Chair), T Bishop, J Cowley, K Garland, D Hine, R Knapp, B Penfold & J Wardell.

T Watson (Clerk)

In attendance

There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies.

Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from P Brember & C Moore.

2. Declarations of Interest.

None.

3. To resolve the Town Council's position with regard to future housing development in Stalbridge. **G Carr-Jones**

The Chairman advised that as part of the review of the North Dorset Local Plan additional housing development was being considered. In the absence of a neighbourhood plan for Stalbridge he asked members to consider the principle of housing development in Stalbridge in terms of the future sustainability of the Town and its voice in Dorset.

Information regarding identified sites in Stalbridge was available and members were divided in their views as to whether they should be considered as part of the debate.

The sites that already have planning permission were reviewed. Concerns were expressed as to whether the drainage and highways infrastructure was adequate to sustain major development, particularly at the narrow part of Ring Street and the junction at Post Office corner. Members were keen to have joined up thinking in terms of the provision of public services in the event of any development and the issue of school provision was discussed, along with the commercial viability of the High Street and whether there should be some sort of commerce / employment land incorporated in any housing development.

Whilst some members felt that any development should be minor and within the currently identified development boundary, others were mindful of the opportunity of diversity and the economic value to the town in terms of commerce and keeping the council tax level down. They were also keen to have proactive negotiation with developers to ensure the best development is achieved.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that Stalbridge Town Council is broadly in favour of future development in Stalbridge and wish to be fully engaged in the process.

Vote: For 5 . Against 3

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8pm

9th November 2016

Signed