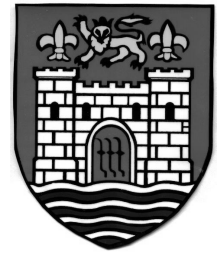




BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2006-2007



Our Fourth Annual Report

The year 2006-7 was a very busy one for the Town Council. It was pleasing that we were able to continue to deliver our services at a high level as well as pursuing some new projects. In particular the Town Council has once again shown itself to be innovative and forward thinking in the way it works and supports our community. The coming years will offer opportunities for an ambitious Town Council like Bridport to further develop its services, bid for additional funding and possibly take on new services ensuring that the people of Bridport and West Bay are able to influence all the decisions that affect us, wherever these decisions may be taken.

At the end of the year, the elections saw some new councillors elected and some long standing members leave the Council. I would like to thank all those who stood down for all their work for the Council and the people of Bridport. I would also like to thank the outgoing Town Clerk, Ron Gregory for his service on behalf of the Council. His final report on the past year and the report from the Mayor, Geoff Ackerman, are set out below.

Charles Wild, Leader, Bridport Town Council

Report on Town Council Activities, 2006-07

from the Bridport Town Clerk, Ron Gregory (to September 2007)

The year 2006-07 was a very busy one for the Town Council. Elections were held at the end of this period. Details of the Town's new councillors are shown later in this report.

This report outlines some of the activities undertaken by the Town Council over the municipal year May 2006 to May 2007. Updated information will be provided in bulletins issued over the course of the year.

Allotments: The Town Council is responsible for providing allotments and their popularity continues with over 40 people on the waiting list. The Bridport Allotments Society acts as a helpful link between allotment holders and the Town Council. The Skilling Extension and land at the rear of South Street, once up and running, will reduce the waiting list. The Town Council has been in discussions with the West Dorset District Council (WDDC) as to the possibility of the provision of another site as part of the access proposals for their Affordable Housing Scheme at Rivervale. As part of our ongoing maintenance programme, the perimeter fencing at Flaxhayes was replaced to improve security.

Asker Meadows: This important green space amenity, maintained by the Town Council, continues to be well used by walkers and dog owners. The Circus, Bridport Food Festival and the Carnival Fair were again pleased to be allowed to use the meadows for their popular events. The site, together with the adjoining land, is designated as a Nature Reserve through a Stewardship Agreement with DEFRA. The provision of two new access gates has improved the access as well as making the site more secure.

Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP): This partnership goes from strength to strength following its establishment in September 2004. This initiative provides a wonderful

opportunity to enable the community both in Bridport and surrounding parishes to actively engage in Community Planning. BLAP has over 80 members and had a very successful second Annual Assembly in March 2007, which was held at the Salt House, West Bay.

BLAP has produced a Community Action Plan which was approved in November 2006 and arising from this extensive exercise, Ten Key Actions have been identified for 2007.

CCTV: The CCTV contract with the Weymouth & Portland Borough Council has been renewed for a further 12 months, to be reviewed on an annual basis. A further study will be undertaken with a view to extending and improving the coverage of the present system.

Cemetery: The established woodland burial area continues to be well received. The policy of continual tree planting, supported in many cases by kind donations, continues. This will ensure continuity when the older trees reach maturity and eventually have to be removed.

Grants: The Town Council provides financial assistance to a range of organisations and community groups. For 2006-07, the grants were categorised into two groups with the major organisations i.e. the Arts Centre, Citizens' Advice Bureau, Museum and the Leisure Centre receiving a total of £11,494 and 25 smaller community organisations receiving £7,150, a grand total of £18,644.

Highway Partnership: The Town Council works in partnership with Dorset County Council, with a view to providing improved street lighting, 'no waiting' restrictions, traffic management and pedestrian crossings. Again, working

as agents with Dorset County Council, the Town Council maintains the highway trees in the town.

Highways and Transportation Sub Committee: Through the mechanism of this Sub Committee the Town Council is able to promote the views of the Town Council to the relevant authorities regarding car-parks, road and transport issues.

The implementation of a Park and Ride service during the summer holidays proved a great success and was to be repeated in 2007.

Market: The street market is an essential feature of the Town's character and vibrancy. It was another good year with an average of 33 stalls on Wednesdays and 83 on Saturdays. The presence of the local Market Traders' Association at the Market and Business Liaison Sub Committee meetings has also resulted in helpful debate and dialogue, looking at initiatives to continuously support and improve the market.

Mountfield/Millennium Green: The Town Council continues to support the popular gardens, meadow and woodland, all of which are open to the public. The decorations to the East and North exterior elevations of the Mountfield Office building have been completed. An environmental audit of Mountfield was undertaken to assess the economic and environmental usage of the building with a view to reducing the building's carbon footprint and be a model for other Council premises.

Outdoor Amenities: The Council's outside staff continue to maintain the cemetery, amenity areas, play areas, football pitches etc. In order to maintain an efficient workforce, a new van was purchased for the play and amenity areas along with a Billy Goat Hoover for picking up litter.

Planning: The Town Council is a consultee for Planning Applications. Over the year, 176 applications were considered and commented upon to West Dorset District Council.

Play Areas: Redecorations to equipment in the six play areas has taken place along with the ongoing programme to upgrade the safety surfacing over the next 3 years. A new section of chain link fencing was erected on the boundary of the Peter Foote play area. Subject to the outcome of a lottery bid, a new play area is due to be constructed at West Bay on land adjacent to the main car park which is being leased by the Town Council from WDDC. This project is to be funded by the Town Council and the Lottery bid, a decision on which is awaited.

Riverside Gardens: This area is currently owned by Dorset County Council but maintained by the Town Council. The current lease has expired and the freehold is due to be transferred to the Town Council, subject to further negotiation.

Salt House: The Town Council has taken over the Salt House at West Bay on a 5 year lease from WDDC and is being let as a community facility for meetings and events.

Town Hall: Work continues on the development of the plans for the refurbishment of the Town Hall. The proposals provide a wonderful opportunity to improve public access, to explore the interpretation of the Fra Newbery paintings and to relate this fine listed building to Bucky Doo Square. Meanwhile the upkeep of this Grade I listed building continues.

The Bridport Heritage Forum working in partnership with the Town Council and supported by WDDC and DCC were successful in securing Heritage Lottery funding in March to stage a major Fra Newbery paintings exhibition in 2008.

Town Hall Toilets: The Town Council now pays for the full running costs of the public toilets at the Town Hall.

Town Plan: The Bridport and West Bay Town Plan was reviewed. The Plan provides a framework for the development of the Town Council's future policies, schemes and formulation of budgets.

Behind the Scenes: The Town Council's web site has been revamped and rather than lose the community web site it has been taken back temporarily into the fold and is currently being increasingly supported by community groups and local businesses.

Budgetary control, financial management and town councillor scrutiny have ensured that the Town Council's accounts are in a strong and healthy condition.

A new Town Guide for 2007- 08 was produced (the first for a number of years) and a complimentary copy was delivered to every household in the Bridport parish.

Conclusion: I hope this report has given a flavour of some of the Town Council's work in 2006-07. The staff at Mountfield, and our outside staff, contribute immensely and provide the cornerstone for the Town Council's continuing development and achievements and I thank them for all their work over the year. I presented this report at the Annual Town meeting prior to my retirement in August 2007, and I would like to take this opportunity to say what a privilege it was to serve as Town Clerk.

Ron Gregory
Town Clerk (up to September 2007)

The Civic Year

I was very honoured to be elected Town Mayor for a fourth term for the municipal year 2006-07. It was a very busy but immensely enjoyable year. Some of the highlights were the November Remembrance Parade, meeting HRH Duke of Kent when I represented the Town to witness the laying up of the Regimental colours of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment in Exeter Cathedral, and leading the 28th torchlight procession as part of the Bridport Carnival. I was also very pleased to host my civic event during the year and being able to show civic leaders from across the county around our town. Sadly there is not room to mention the many more events during the year, but I would like to take this opportunity to

Bridport Town Council

Bridport Town Council is the parish authority for the town of Bridport. It is the fourth tier of government after Parliament, the County Council and the District Council. Its legal powers are granted to it and regulated by various government legislation. The Town Council supplements the provision of local government services in Bridport and provides a range of social and recreational facilities, while promoting and representing the town with other national and statutory bodies.

The Town Council offices are at
Mountfield, Rax Lane, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3JP.
Tel. no. 01308 456722
Fax no. 01308 456112
Email address: enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk
Website: www.bridport-tc.gov.uk

The council's offices are open Monday to Friday,
8.30 am–5.00 pm (Friday 8.30 am–4.30 pm).

Staff

Town Clerk: from Sept 07 Bob Gillis
Town Surveyor: Daryl Chambers
Office Manager: Paul Fuszard
Community Planning Officer: Tessa Greenaway
Administrative Officer: Linda Bullock
Office Staff: Jill Cox, Steven Yarde
Caretaker: Colin Divall
Senior Groundsman: Robert Goodland
Groundsman: Sean Coombs
Groundsman and Market Superintendent: Ray McLaren
Cemetery Superintendent: Paul Pinkett

The Town Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the Leader, and Committee Chairmen

The Town Mayor is elected annually by fellow councillors. The Town Mayor for the year 2007-08 is Councillor Geoffrey Ackerman, and his deputy is Councillor Frances McKenzie. Councillor Charles Wild was re-elected Leader of the Council for a fifth consecutive year in May 2007. The three main committees are chaired by Councillor Martin Ray (Finance and General Purposes), Councillor Ros Kayes (Plans) and Councillor Dave Rickard (Environment and Social Wellbeing).

The Council and its Committees

The full Council oversees all the activities of the town council. Three main committees cover the work of the council, namely Plans, Finance & General Purposes, and Environment & Social Wellbeing. These are supported by a number of sub-committees.

The Town Council meets six times a year at 7.00 pm normally on a Tuesday. The Plans Committee meets on Mondays on a four-week cycle. The Finance and General Purposes, and Environment and Social Wellbeing committees meet on Wednesdays, four or five times a year each. The sub-committees meet once a quarter.

Agendas are normally issued seven clear days before the meetings and are posted on public notice boards throughout the town and on the council's website (www.bridport-tc.gov.uk).

The press and public are welcome to attend all committee and full

Council meetings and the public may put questions or make statements on any matter in a 30 minute public period at the beginning of each council meeting. Members of the public and press are only asked to depart if there are any confidential items on the agenda and this is normally dealt with as the last business of the meeting.

The minutes of the main committee meetings are available within ten working days following the meeting. The minutes are not a verbatim account of the meeting but detail the decisions and recommendations made. They are available to the public and can be found at the library, at the Council offices at Mountfield and on the town council website. They are also circulated to the various local media organisations.

Town Councillors

Bridport's eighteen town councillors represent the two wards in the town. They are elected every four years. The last election was in May 2007. The next election will be held in May 2011. The town councillors for each ward are as follows:

North Ward:

Councillor Miss S.A. Brown, 67 North Allington. DT6 5DZ;
tel: 01308-423078
Councillor N. K. Cast 217 St Andrews Road. DT6 3BT
tel: 01308 456861
Councillor Ms R.C. Kayes, Higher Monkwood Farmhouse,
Bridport DT6 5PF
tel: 01308-867508
Councillor P.J. Lathey, 5 Allington Mead. DT6 5HF
tel: 01308-458125
Councillor Ms F.K. McKenzie, 204 Orchard Avenue. DT6 5RL
tel: 01308-425068
Councillor M.P. Parsons, 3 Sparacre Gardens DT6 3NB
tel: 01308 456697
Councillor C.M. Ray, 9 St Andrews Road. DT6 3BG
tel: 01308-459095
Councillor Mrs M.J. Ray, 9 St Andrews Road DT6 3BG
tel: 01308-459095
Councillor R.J. Stoodley, 88 St Andrews Rd. DT6 3BL
tel: 01308-456797

South Ward:

Councillor G.J. Ackerman, 31 Crock Lane. DT6 4DF
tel. 01308-458098
Councillor P.J. Colfox, 1 Mill Lane, Symondsburry. DT6 6HQ
tel: 07918 188497
Councillor Ms A.M. Gear 1, Stover Place, St Michaels Lane.
DT6 3RE ; tel. 01308-421029
Councillor J.D. Hunt, 8 Meadow Court, Folly Mill Lane,
DT6 3UW; tel. 01308-422719
Councillor D.G. Rickard 'Rydens', Westtown, Bothenhampton.
DT6 4BQ tel. 01308-420908
Councillor D.R. Tett, Beech House, 1 De Legh Grove, West
Allington. DT6 5QY; tel. 01308-425070
Councillor K.G. Wallace, The George, 43 Main Street,
Bothenhampton, DT6 4BJ tel. 01308-456454
Councillor C.D. Wild, 9g Station Road, West Bay. DT6 4EW
tel. 01308-420808
Councillor Ms S.J. Williams 88A, South Street. DT6 3NW
tel:01308- 459433

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2007

CURRENT ASSETS

Payments in advance	8,595
Debtors	21,117
Treasury Deposit	560,000
Cash at bank	88,391
Cash in hand	<u>65</u>

TOTAL ASSETS	678,168
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CURRENT LIABILITIES

Creditors	<u>117,030</u>
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NET ASSETS	<u>561,138</u>
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REPRESENTED BY:

Capital reserve as at 1 April 2006	15,300
Net movement during the year	<u>-</u>
Capital reserve as at 31 March 2007	15,300

General reserve as at 1 April 2006	480,085
Net surplus for the year	<u>65,753</u>
General reserve as at 31 March 2007	<u>545,838</u>

TOTAL RESERVES	<u>561,138</u>
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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

INCOME

Precept	347,599
Interest	27,065
Allotments	1,024
Cemetery	18,533
Frontages	480
Market	101,697
Amenity Areas/Playing Fields	1,749
Mountfield	49,025
Salt House	769
Town Hall	<u>9,094</u>
	<u>557,035</u>

EXPENDITURE

Administration	172,861
Office Expenses	8,828
Mountfield	29,237
Salt House	7,361
Town Hall	26,492
Cemetery	30,976
Civic	8,940
Market	32,392
Other Services	32,427
Section 137	7,150
Amenity Areas and Playing Fields	<u>134,618</u>
	<u>491,282</u>

NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	<u>65,753</u>
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The above statement represents fairly the financial position of Bridport Town Council as at 31 March 2007 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.