

At a MEETING of the **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, Bridport on Tuesday 16 April 2013 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT Cllr D.G. Rickard – Town Mayor (in the Chair)

Cllr	G.J. Ackerman	C.M. Ray
	P.J. Colfox	Mrs M.J. Ray
	Ms R.C. Kayes	Ms G.E. Summers
	J.T. May	Ms A-M.A. Vincent
	C.O. Michell	Ms S.J. Williams

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Barry Bates spoke in relation to the proposed development at Vearse Farm and in particular asked if there would be more public discussion and scrutiny of the development and its potential impact on the area.

The Chairman stated that, in its response on the draft Local Plan, the Town Council had raised issues relating to the implications of the site allocation for the area, such as the need for supporting infrastructure. The site was just outside the Bridport parish boundary and had been identified by the District Council for some time as a potential site. However, there would be further opportunity for comment, including hopefully the opportunities that could come through working with neighbouring councils, on a neighbourhood plan.

The Town Clerk added that the Town Council was supporting the process to consider the feasibility of a Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan, being co-ordinated through the Bridport Local Area Partnership. Such a community led plan would allow local communities to influence future development of the area. Whilst a neighbourhood plan could not conflict with the District Local Plan, it would be an opportunity to influence the development and design of sites within the Local Plan, such as Vearse Farm. The Town Council would continue to receive reports on progress, as was reported later in this agenda (minute 67).

61. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllrs: Miss S.A. Brown, E.T. Colfox and Ms L.L. Glover.

62. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In relation to the public forum reference to Vearse Farm, Councillor P.J. Colfox declared an interest in this site allocation. No decisions on this matter were to be taken at the meeting.

64. STANDING ORDER 14 (b)

There were no questions pursuant to standing order 14(b).

65. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) PLANS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 4 February 2013 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Ms S.J. Williams.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 4 February 2013 be received.

(b) PLANS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 4 March 2013 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Ms S.J. Williams.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 4 March 2013 be received.

(c) PLANS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 2 April 2013 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Ms S.J. Williams.

With reference to application A7/318 - The Old Hemp Store, North Mills Trading Estate, it was agreed that, although it was privately owned land, further representations should be made to the landowner of the Estate to see if the gates, that used to prevent access from North Mills, could be reinstated. This followed concerns, as reported at the Plans meeting, from local residents.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 2 April 2013 be received.

(d) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 27 March 2013 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor C.M. Ray.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 27 March 2013 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted, as set out below: -

(Minute 127) BEST VALUE MINUTE 32 – INVESTMENT REVIEW 2012/13 AND STRATEGY 2013/14

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that the Annual Investment Strategy for 2012/13 be adopted without amendment for 2013/14.

(Minute 127) BEST VALUE MINUTE 35 – COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and it was

- RESOLVED: (1) that the Town Clerk report back with proposals for an audit of community buildings in the parish, to take account of the findings of the BLAP Space Needs Survey and enable the Council to consider whether it wishes to prepare a list of buildings that it considers should be recommended for registration by the District Council as assets of community value, and
- (2) that the District Council be asked to include the Town Council as a formal consultee on all applications received for listings of assets of community value, under the Community Right to Bid.

(Minute 139) CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that the calendar of meetings for 2013/14 be approved.

(Minute 151) PROPERTY MATTERS

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that the renewal of the Plottingham leases for the Sea Cadets and 1st Bridport Scout Group be approved for a further 28 years on the existing terms, at the same nominal rent of £5 per annum.

(e) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 20 March 2013 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Ms R.C. Kayes.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 20 March 2013 be received.

66. STREET LIGHTING

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Surveyor, ENCL: 2677.

The Town Surveyor provided an update for members and said that he was still waiting to agree costings with the lighting contractor. The Town Council had agreed that it wished to see heritage lighting in the town centre area. However, there were options available for the 24 columns to be provided in the town centre (East and West Street from East Street car park to Amsafe). These were:

1. Replace 24 columns like for like in grey, as in the PFI County contract.
2. Replace 24 columns like for like, in black.
3. Replace 11 columns in black and 13 with heavy duty columns (enable flags, Christmas lights etc) with electric sockets for Christmas lights.
4. Replace 11 columns with scroll bracket arm and Albany lantern and 13 with heavy duty columns with scroll bracket arm and Albany lantern, with electric sockets for Christmas lights.

There would be no cost to the Town Council for option 1, but the other options and particularly option 4 (the replacement with heritage fittings) would have financial implications for the Council. As the costings were still awaited, it was proposed to come back to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee, to allow a decision to be taken.

RESOLVED: that the latest position be noted and this matter and costings be considered at the June meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

67. BLAP MEETING – POTENTIAL WIDE AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Town Clerk updated members on the BLAP meeting held with local councils to discuss a potential wide area neighbourhood plan, covering the BLAP geographical area.

The meeting was well attended and had been very useful in ascertaining the facts of preparing a neighbourhood plan and to hear from West Dorset District Council about both the pros and cons of looking at a wider area plan. However, it would need further discussion amongst local councils, including the Town Council, before the councils were asked to agree the area to be covered by a plan. The next steps would be to prepare a project plan setting out the vision, objectives and benefits of such a plan, with potential funding sources, timelines and a delivery mechanism. The Town Council would be kept informed of progress and it was hoped that the area to be covered by a plan, could be agreed by July.

Members welcomed the progress being made and the work of BLAP in co-ordinating the process.

RESOLVED: that the latest position on the BLAP project to assess the feasibility of a wide area neighbourhood plan be noted.

68. COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were reported for information:

- (1) The Town Mayor's list of engagements, ENCL: 2678, was noted and he announced that his Civic Evening would take place at the Arts Centre on the following evening.
- (2) The Leader of the Council had nothing to report.
- (3) The Town Clerk reported that the reports from the Town Council, presented to the Annual Town Meeting, were all available on the Town Council's web site, www.bridport-tc.gov.uk.

The meeting closed at **7.42 p.m.**

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 25 June 2013