

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Tuesday 19 January
2016 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: D.G. Rickard (Chairman)

K.C. Clayton

W.B. Irvine

E.T. Colfox

J.S.L. Jones

Ms S.A. Horniman

Mrs E.A. Rickard

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the public forum.

49. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllrs Ms R.C. Kayes.

50. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 October 2015 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the chairman.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs K.C. Clayton, E.T. Colfox and Ms S.A. Horniman declared remote interests in agenda item 7 Pension Fund – Investment Policy as either previous or current County Pension holders.

52. YOUTH CENTRE UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported on the current position:

The County Council had now confirmed its position on the Youth Services funding following its Cabinet meeting last week. It will be withdrawing from running Youth Centres and will offer the buildings to community groups interested and able to take them on. £200,000 has been allocated to support communities with providing youth services.

The Town Council was supporting the work of a small group of stakeholders which has been meeting to consider the options for establishing a new Trust to take over and manage the Youth Centre. Before Christmas it submitted a draft business plan. In the light of the decision from the County Council, it now needed to move forward with the Trust proposal and seek to finalise the Business Plan.

The stakeholders group comprised: Cllr Kayes, Cllr Clayton, Cllr Williams and the Arts Centre Manager supported by the Youth Centre Manager and Town Clerk. The Group was looking at additional people to be involved in the Group and was also now looking at establishing an interim Trust Board, and was putting together a skills audit to identify the skills needed. It would be asking those people interested in

serving on a Trust to provide a short summary of their skills and background with a view to selecting potential interim Trustees in February.

The final business plan needed to be with the County Council by the end of March, to consider the feasibility of transferring the building by September.

RECOMMEND: that the Town Council continues to support the project to establish a Trust to manage the Youth Centre and endorse the proposals to establish an interim Trust and finalise the Business Plan by the end of March, with a further progress report to be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.

53. DORSET COAST FORUM – TIDY BEACHES

RESOLVED: that the Dorset Coast Forum report be considered at the next meeting of this Committee.

54. NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY CONSULTATION

Members considered the consultation document and made the following comments:

Affordable housing – the proposals to change the definition of affordable housing, including proposals for starter homes, were very concerning and would not make housing genuinely affordable. There needed to be a strong response on affordable housing.

Commuter hubs and higher density housing – whilst this was intended for urban areas, the need for frequent transport services would in any case mean that this was not relevant for market towns like Bridport.

Mixed Use developments – there was concern at the definition, if this meant that housing would be sited on industrial estates with the potential problems that could be caused.

Small sites (of less than 10 units) adjoining settlement boundaries – the consultation stated that proposals for development on such sites should be supported if they were sustainable but members questioned the definition of sustainable development.

It was generally felt that much of the document did not relate to or help rural areas and in particular the proposals for affordable housing should be questioned.

All members were encouraged to make comments which could be included within the Town Council's response and a working group could finalise the response. The deadline was 22 February.

It was also felt that Roy Mathisen from the Housing Working Group of the Neighbourhood Plan could be invited to a future Council to present his findings on local housing.

RECOMMEND: that the Town Clerk, in consultation with a working group of members, finalise the response including the above comments and any other comments from the Council.

55. PENSION FUND – INVESTMENT POLICY

The Town Clerk reported on the request from Councilor J.S.L. Jones to consider making representations to the County Council Pension Fund Committee calling for a change to its investment policy, to disinvest from fossil fuels on ethical grounds, although it was also felt it would be a sound economic decision at the current time of falling demand.

Members felt that the proposed change to the investment policy could also consider other ethical issues.

RECOMMEND: that representations be made to the Dorset County Council Pension Fund Committee calling for an amendment to its Statement of Investment Principles to agree, as part of their socially responsible investments policy, that the Fund would not invest in fossil fuel companies.

56. LEISURE CENTRE

The Chair reported on the outcome of a meeting of the District Council's Scrutiny Committee earlier that day which had agreed to set up a member working group to look at the funding position and report back. In the meantime, it was proposed to agree to continue current levels of funding until the completion of the review, to hopefully reach a suitable long-term funding package.

Members expressed their continued support for the Leisure Centre and the need to ensure that the Centre and swimming pool were properly funded and could continue to operate.

RESOLVED: that the latest position be noted.

57. CITY OF SANCTUARY MOVEMENT

RECOMMEND: that the proposal to designate Bridport as a town of sanctuary to help integrate people into the local community be supported and people be encouraged to come forward to be part of a group to take the proposal forward.

58. CAB – LOCAL ADVICE NETWORK

The Town Clerk reported that it was proposed to offer support to the Network in producing a leaflet with information on advisory groups in the area and would report back with further information when proposals were confirmed.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

59. USE OF PLASTIC BAGS

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council was to produce a new re-usable market bag, subject to the funding being approved by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The issue of all shops looking to charge for plastic bags would be raised with the Chamber of Trade in the hope it could be discussed at an open meeting, which it was understood could be held later this year.

RESOLVED: that the possibility of all shops charging for plastic bags be raised with the Chamber of Trade.

60. COASTAL SIGNAGE

Councillors considered an item from Councillors S.A. Horniman regarding signage

The Committee looked at photographs of the current signage around the beaches and cliffs in West Bay. Whilst it would not want to see a large number of additional signs, it was asked if West Dorset District Council could review the signage and look at the best locations for some new replacement signs, highlighting in particular the increased danger from cliff falls. The Town Council would be happy to assist with the review.

RESOLVED: that West Dorset District Council be contacted regarding a review of signage at West Bay as above.

61. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Arts Centre – Cllr W.B. Irvine reported that the Arts Centre should hear the outcome of its capital project bid by the end of February and it had received assurances as to continued revenue funding from the Arts Council.

Bridport Food Group - Cllr Mrs E.A. Rickard reported that the Group had met earlier that day. She had been unable to attend but would report back when she had the details of the meeting.

Christmas Cheer - Cllr Mrs E.A. Rickard stated that it was generally agreed that this had been the best event yet.

BYPAT - Cllr K.C. Clayton said that the West Bay Play area extension was now ready for the start date to be confirmed for the work.

Skills Training Bridport - Cllr K.C. Clayton reported that the job club was continuing once a week.

The Chair reported on Transition Town Bridport and the project to raise funds for the St Mary's Garden. It was proposed to invite Sarah Wilberforce to the next meeting of this Committee to update members. This was supported.

62. PROJECT UPDATES

Neighbourhood Justice Panels – the project was being rolled out and it was hoped that future funding would be confirmed with the continued support from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Dorset County Council Community Hub – the County Council had agreed that a social property impact fund would provide a replacement care home and community hub building on the Fisherman's Arms site. More consultation on the hub to follow.

Solar Panels – now in place at the Cemetery and Mountfield compound.

Rights Respecting Survey and Next Steps – the Chair was bringing all the responses together and would then be discussing next steps with David Powell.

Community Fair – members were reminded of help needed needed at the Town Hall on the Town Council stand at the Community Fair on Saturday 6 February, between 9am and 2pm.

Coastal Community Team – the Economic Plan would be published as required by end of January and all members would be notified when it was finalised.

63. FUTURE REPORTS

Issues for future meetings included:

- Funding for sustainable transport.
- Local Economic Blue Print Proposal and other projects supported through Communities Living Sustainably such as the Local Food Initiative.

64. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

The meeting closed at **8.45 p.m.**

The next meeting of this committee will be held on 9 March 2016