

At a MEETING of the **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held in Mountfield, Bridport on Tuesday 20 September 2011 at 7.00 p.m.

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

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Catherine Searle spoke in respect of the Government consultation on the new planning policy framework. She raised concerns about the proposal to remove all the existing policies and guidance that regulated development. In particular, she mentioned the proposed scrapping of planning policy statement 5 on the protection of the historic environment and the potential impact on the historic character of an area.

Roger Greene, West Dorset District Council Monitoring Officer, made a presentation on the Members' Code of Conduct and updated members on the latest position on changes to the Code, as proposed in the Localism Bill.

26. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllrs: Ms R.C. Kayes, J.T. May and D.R. Tett.

27. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All the previously recorded interests declared under this item in the Committee minutes were noted.

29. STANDING ORDER 14 (b)

The following question had been submitted by Councillor P.J. Colfox:

Question:

I wish to ask the Leader of the Town Council if the Town Council will join in the suggestion that has been made on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, that Bridport Gig Rowing Club represent Dorset in the procession of boats in London to mark the Queen's diamond jubilee and perhaps to consider a small amount to help with expenses?

Reply from Councillor C.M. Ray, Leader of the Council.

At the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee last week, the Committee considered an item on support for events for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, which included a letter from the Lord Lieutenant sent to all Dorset councils. This referred to the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant on 3 June, which will consist of up to 1,000 boats from across the country, including rowers from Dorset. It would be really good if the Bridport Gig Rowing Club was able to take part alongside other gigs from the County. In terms of funding, the small grants have been awarded for this year although the Finance and General Purposes Committee will be receiving further reports on preparations for the Jubilee celebrations and any possible funding support to mark the occasion will be considered at that time. The Town Council has previously provided funding for the Gig Club and it is pleasing that the Club has been so successful in raising other funding and in establishing itself so quickly, that it could be in position to take part in this important event.

30. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) PLANS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meetings of the Plans Committee held on 4 July, 1 August and 5 September 2011 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Ms S.J. Williams. Each set of minutes were considered separately.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meetings of the Plans Committee held on 4 July, 1 August and 5 September 2011 be received and the recommendations from the meeting on 5 September be adopted as set out below:

(Minute 36) NEW PLANNING FRAMEWORK

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

- RESOLVED: (1) that Cllrs C.M. Ray and D.G. Rickard represent the Town Council at the initial local consultation on the new District wide Local Plan, to be held at Beaminster Town Hall on Monday 3 October 2011.
- (2) that a working group drawn from the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee and this Committee (comprising Cllrs Ms R.C. Kayes, C.M. Ray, D.G. Rickard and Ms S.J. Williams) meet to formulate a response on the draft national planning policy framework The Town Clerk to be given delegated authority to approve the response. (All members were invited to participate in the Working Group).

(Minute 38) DAPTC MOTIONS FOR AGM

The recommendations, after being moved and seconded, were put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: (1) That the following motions be to the DAPTC AGM be supported:

Beaminster Town Council

“Beaminster Town Council propose that the DAPTC urge all district, borough and county planning authorities to negotiate with utility providers with a view to the implementation, as a matter of policy, that all planning approvals impose a condition that require that all utility service pipes, cables etc. include the installation of a „tracer“ and their position mapped at the point of installation and lodged with the relevant planning authority for future reference”.

Iwerne Minster Parish Council

”Iwerne Minster Parish Council urges the National Association of Local Councils to seek to have the law in respect of Planning Appeals changed, so that when there is a conflict of opinion between a planning inspector and a planning authority, who are of a like mind with the local parish council, the local opinion shall be binding.”

Chideock Parish Council

“That this conference asks NALC to urgently take up the issue of SATNAV systems directing heavy vehicles onto unsuitable roads in rural areas and consequently causing damage and traffic chaos in small communities. Routes need to be checked by Local Highway Authorities as to their suitability in both weight and width restrictions before licences are issued to SATNAV. “

(2) That the following motions be to the DAPTC AGM be not supported:

Chideock Parish Council

“That this conference requests that the Department for Communities and Local Government urgently closes the loophole whereby long delays by Local Planning Authorities in taking Enforcement action on a planning violation can result in the evidence of the violation, as provided to the LPA by Parish Councils and private individuals, being used by the violator to support an application for a Certificate of Lawful Use.
“

Child Okeford Parish Council

“We request that DAPTC discuss the perception that Development Control at North Dorset appears to be allowing too many applications for development in Conservation Areas in the towns and villages to be approved. This is destroying the integrity of Conservation Areas in general.”

(b) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 14 September 2011 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 14 September 2011 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted as set out below: -

(Minute 38) FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2011/2012 – 1ST REVISION

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

RESOLVED: that the 1st revision of the 2011/2012 estimates be approved.

(Minute 47) LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCE REVIEW: PROPOSALS FOR BUSINESS RATES

Members generally felt that more information was needed on the implications of the proposed reforms and it was

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, be given delegated authority to respond on behalf of the Town Council.

(Minute 49) HONORARY TOWNSPERSON PROCEDURE

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

RESOLVED: that the process for consideration of nominations for Honorary Townsperson be approved as set out in the report.

(Minute 50) BRIDPORT AREA DEVELOPMENT TRUST AGM

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

RESOLVED: that Cllr Ms S.J. Williams be nominated as the representative of the Town Council on the Bridport Area Development Trust

(Minute 52) DAPTC– MOTIONS FOR AGM

The recommendations, after being moved and seconded, were put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: (1) That the following motions to the DAPTC AGM be supported:

Arne Parish Council

“Given the current financial straits all councils are finding themselves in and fully understanding why consultations and large documents are being sent by email to clerks, this action nevertheless is exclusive for those councillors who are not on the internet and if county and district councils cannot afford to print off copies then clearly parish and town councils cannot. DAPTC accepts that all local authorities will continue to email their consultations and large documents but that a hard copy be sent to any parish or town council that asks for it.”

St Leonards and St Ives Parish Council

”St Leonards and St Ives Parish Council urges the National Association of Local Councils to seek government funding support for smaller councils who are faced with unbudgeted legal and clean-up costs incurred in the removal of illegal encampments of gypsies and travellers.”

(c) **ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 31 August 2011 were presented by the Committee Vice - Chairman, Councillor Ms G.E. Massey.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 31 August 2011 be received and the recommendation therein be adopted as set out below:

(Minute 26) CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL’S DAY SERVICES AND VOCATIONAL SERVICES

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

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to respond following further consideration by members in the Social Wellbeing Working Group.

31. BRIDPORT AND WEST BAY TOWN PLAN – FIRST DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2440.

RESOLVED: that the draft Town Plan be endorsed for consultation subject to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Working Group, having authority to make any drafting amendments to the objectives and wording of the projects prior to submission of the final Plan for approval in November.

32. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2010/2011

The Town Clerk reported that he was awaiting confirmation from the External Auditor that the audit was complete. He would let members know once this was received.

RESOLVED: that the updated be noted.

33. COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were reported for information:

- (1) The Town Mayor reported his list of engagements, ENCL: 2441.
- (2) The Leader of the Council reminded members of the Apple Day to be held at the Community Orchard on Saturday 8th October 11am – 3pm
- (3) The Town Clerk reported that the Bridport Community Orchard Group had won the “Grow your Own” award at the Taste of Dorset Awards, run by the Blackmore Vale magazine. There were about 45 entries in this new category of these prestigious awards. All members joined the Chairman in congratulating the Orchard Group on this achievement.

The meeting closed at **8.20 p.m.**

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 29 November 2011