

At a MEETING of the **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, Bridport on Tuesday 24 November 2015 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT Cllr G.J. Ackerman – Deputy Mayor (in the Chair)

Cllr	K.C. Clayton	Ms G.E. Massey
	Ms T.G. Harrison	C.M. Ray
	Ms S.A. Horniman	Mrs M.J. Ray
	W.B. Irvine	D.G. Rickard
	J.S.L. Jones	Mrs E.A. Rickard
	Ms R.C. Kayes	Ms S.J. Williams
	Ms F.K. McKenzie (from 7.15pm)	

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the public forum.

36. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllrs J.P. Brodie, Miss S.A. Brown, E.T. Colfox, K.A. Day and for lateness, Ms F.K. McKenzie.

37. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Deputy Mayor (Chairman).

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Cllr Ms F.K. McKenzie declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to a number of agenda items, as a member of West Dorset District Council and in respect of the Finance and General Purposes Committee minute no.66 as Chairman of the Charter Fair Committee. The interests did not prevent Cllr McKenzie taking part in the consideration of these items and minute 66 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was a resolved matter.

39. STANDING ORDER 14 (b)

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

40. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) PLANS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 28 September 2015 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Ms S.J. Williams.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 28 September 2015 be received.

(b) PLANS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 26 October 2015 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Ms S.J. Williams.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 26 October 2015 be received.

(c) PLANS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 9 November 2015 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Ms S.J. Williams.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 9 November 2015 be received.

(d) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 11 November 2015 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Mrs M.J. Ray.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 11 November 2015 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted, as set out below: -

(Minute 68) FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2015/2016 – 2nd REVISION

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

RESOLVED: that the 2nd revision of the estimates for the year 2015/2016 be approved.

(Minute 69) DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL – FORWARD TOGETHER

The Town Clerk reported that the title for this item and the document referred to, should be “Working Together” not “Forward Together”.

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

RESOLVED: that the report “Working Together - A Pilot Project for Locality Working in Dorset” and its recommendations for future joint working be supported.

(Minute 70) WEST BAY PLAY AREA - EXTENSION

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

- RESOLVED:
- (1) that the proposals for the extension of the West Bay Play Area be approved.
 - (2) that contract standing orders be waived, to allow the contract for the additional works to be awarded to the designer of the existing play area, Huck Nets.
 - (3) that the funding of £5,000 from the existing play area budget be confirmed and additional funding of £15,000 be earmarked from Town Council reserves, in the event that other external funding was not identified.
 - (4) that the lease of the additional land required from West Dorset District Council be approved for 21 years (to conclude at the same time as the existing lease) and the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to agree the terms and arrange for the lease to be signed and sealed.

(Minute 75) MILLENNIUM GREEN AND CONEYGAR HILL –
REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

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

- RESOLVED:
- (1) that further discussions take place with the Trust on the future management of the Millennium Green and Coneygar Hill in respect of option 2 in the report (simplify the role of the Trust) and also option 3 (dissolving the Trust) to enable decisions to be taken before the financial year 2016/17.
 - (2) that Cllr Ms G.E. Massey be appointed to represent the Town Council on the Trust.

(Minute 86) PROPERTY MATTERS

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

- RESOLVED:
- (1) that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to lease the vacant rooms at Mountfield, in line with the advice of the Town Council's advisers, Chestertons Commercial.
 - (2) that the Town Council accept the surrender of the lease of the St John Ambulance premises at Plottingham and the Town Clerk be given authority to agree the date of the surrender.

(Minute 77) TOWN COUNCIL MOTION –
HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES

This was a resolved item, but it was asked and generally agreed that, as part of the further consideration of potential support for refugees, the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee consider what would be involved, if it was decided to recommend designating Bridport as a “town of sanctuary”.

(e) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 21 October 2015 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor D.G. Rickard.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 21 October 2015 be received and the recommendation therein be adopted as set out below: -

(Minute 45) PLASTIC BAGS

The Committee Chairman reported on a recent meeting he had attended, hosted by the Dorset Coast Forum, on “Litter Free Coast.”

In discussion of this item, members felt that the use of plastic bags should be looked at alongside issues relating to reducing litter, as discussed at the Dorset Coast Forum meeting. Shops could be encouraged to stop issuing plastic bags and be offered the new Town Council reusable bag, when produced. However, it was agreed that more detail was required on how to take the proposal forward.

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

RESOLVED: that the aim to reduce the use of plastic bags in the town be supported and proposals to take this forward be considered at the January meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee.

41. YOUTH SERVICES REVIEW CONSULTATION UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3032.

Members considered the further consultation and the preferred option from the County Council, which in summary was: targeted youth work, working closely with schools and supporting social action, with £200,000 to support communities to provide places to go and things to do for young people. Dorset County Council would no longer fund Youth Centres, or provide funding or staff to Youth Clubs.

It was reported that initial discussions had taken place on options to retain the existing Youth Centre building and the provision of activities in that building. The options included looking to establish a Trust to take over the building, but this would depend on identifying Trustees, receiving sufficient transitional funding from the County Council and also having a business plan for the continued management of the building.

Members were very concerned at the proposal from the County Council and the threat to the Youth Centre and services in that building. The following comments were made on the consultation:

- it was important that as many responses as possible were made, to seek to safeguard the service in Bridport.
- the proposed split in the County Council funding was not supported, as more of the funding should be allocated to community support. The proposal for up to £1m to support work in schools was felt to be too high, bearing in mind the existing education funding for such work. It was important that the funding allocations were reconsidered, with more resources allocated to support communities.
- the County Council should be asked to agree transitional funding and technical/property support to a Trust considering taking over the building.
- anyone interested in serving on a Trust, or helping, should be asked to contact the Town Council.
- the Town Council would not be able to run the building, but could support work in seeking to establish a Trust and could also look at allocating initial budget provision, to support youth services in the building.

RESOLVED: that the options to safeguard the Youth Centre and youth services in Bridport be discussed further with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee, the Town Council's representative on the Youth Centre Management Board and the Leader of the Council and the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to agree a response to the County Council consultation, to include the comments as above.

42. HOUSING AND PLANNING BILL

Consideration was given to Chartered Institute of Housing Summary, ENCL 3030.

Members made the following comments on the implications of the Bill.

- there was a very great need for low cost affordable housing in Bridport and it was not felt that this Bill would address this issue, or lead to the building of more housing. More properties were required for social rent.
- Housing Associations would not be able to build sufficient housing to meet the numbers required, or replace those that they would be required to sell off under this Bill. The extension of the right to buy provisions would reduce the numbers of houses available for rent.
- members were very concerned at the proposal to sell off affordable housing and that this could make it very difficult to promote affordable housing schemes, with provision for local connection.
- generally, members had serious reservations about the proposals in the draft Bill and their impact on the provision of low cost/affordable housing for local people, which was such a priority in this area. It noted that this issue and potential local policies were being looked at through the Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED: that the Council continue to receive reports on the Bill and on the development of possible affordable housing policies, through the Neighbourhood Plan.

43. HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNUAL REVIEW

Consideration was given to the Health and Safety Policy Statement, ENCL: 3033.

RESOLVED: that the Health and Safety Policy Statement be approved and the Best Value, Scrutiny and Town Plan Sub Committee review the Health and Safety Action Plan.

44. COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were reported for information:

The Town Mayor's list of engagements, ENCL: 3031 was reported and the Deputy Mayor highlighted the Community Chest Awards event that he had attended, where awards were made to three Bridport groups.

The Deputy Mayor reported two forthcoming musical performances - the Bridport Choral Society concert on Saturday 5 December and the Wessex Military Band concert on Sunday 6 December.

The Town Clerk reported on the progress in putting up the Christmas Trees and Lights and members thanked the staff for their work. He also reminded members of the Christmas Cheer event on the evening of Wednesday 9 December.

The meeting closed at **8.05 p.m.**

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 26 January 2016