

At a MEETING of the **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, Bridport on Tuesday 24 June 2014 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT Cllr Mrs M.J. Ray – Town Mayor (in the Chair)

Cllr	G.J. Ackerman	Mrs E.A. Rickard
	P.J. Colfox	D.G. Rickard
	Ms G.E. Massey	Ms G.E. Summers
	C.O. Michell	D.R. Tett
	C.M. Ray	Ms S.J. Williams

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the Public Forum.

14. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllrs Miss S.A. Brown, E.T. Colfox and Ms A-M.A. Vincent.

15. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

17. STANDING ORDER 14 (b)

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

18. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) PLANS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 28 April 2014 were presented by the Committee Vice-Chairman, Councillor Ms S.J. Williams.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 28 April 2014 be received.

(b) PLANS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 4 June 2014 were presented by the Committee Vice-Chairman, Councillor Ms S.J. Williams.

In response to a comment regarding the need to ensure the water containers on the allotments were re-filled in the hot dry weather, the Town Surveyor stated that they had filled the containers yesterday and he would ensure that they were re-filled again.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 4 June 2014 be received.

(c) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 11 June 2014 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 11 June 2014 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted as set out below: -

(Minute 8) ANNUAL ACCOUNTS – YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2014

It was agreed that the Town Council's Investment Strategy would be reviewed during the year.

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

RESOLVED: that the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014 be approved.

(Minute 13) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – COMMITMENT OF FUNDING

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

RESOLVED: (1) that £10,000 is committed from earmarked funding, to go towards the costs of appointing a Project Manager.

(2) that the Town Clerk be given authority to progress and make the appointment of a Project Manager, in consultation with the District and participating councils and the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

(3) that the delegations and appointments (one member & one reserve member) to the proposed Joint Committee that will oversee the delivery of the Plan, be approved as set out in the outline Decision Making Structure. Cllr Ms S.J. Williams to be appointed as the Town Council's representative on the Joint Committee and Cllr D.G. Rickard as the reserve.

(Minute 15) BUDGET AND SERVICE REVIEW WORKING GROUP

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

RESOLVED: that the meetings of the Working Group be noted and initial comments be approved on the following District Council reviews as below:

Support for Voluntary and Community Organisations –to be considered further by the Working Group, as more information becomes available.

Local Area Partnership Funding, including BLAP
– whilst the deadline for consultation had been extended, the Town Council confirms its support for continued District Council funding for BLAP and endorses the initial BLAP response to the review. This response emphasised the importance of maintaining the funding for the Community Planning post. The Town Council will make a fuller response as part of the extended consultation process. The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to be given delegated authority to complete the recently published survey of stakeholders, which had a deadline of 5 September 2014.

District & Parish Elections Recharges – the Town Council has serious concerns at any proposal to charge for conducting Town and Parish Council elections. There should be full consultation before any such decision was considered.

Tourist Information Centre Review – to be considered at the next meeting of the Market and Business Liaison Sub Committee and it be agreed that the date of the next meeting be moved to 22 July 2014 at 10am, from 1 July, to allow the Head of Tourism and Events to attend.

(Minute 18) PENSIONS DISCRETIONS POLICY

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

RESOLVED: that the pensions discretions policy be approved as circulated with the report.

(Minute 24) **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT – SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS RATES PROPOSAL**

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

RESOLVED: that the following proposal submitted to the Government by Sevenoaks Town Council, be supported:

“That the Government take the necessary action to allow a percentage of Business Rates to be paid direct to Parish and Town Councils for the benefit of local economic growth.”

(Minute 27) **APPOINTMENTS & REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL**

The Town Clerk reported corrections to the minutes in respect of representatives. The correct representatives for the following organisations should be:

Bridport Heritage Forum	Cllr Ms G.E. Massey
Bridport Food Festival Committee	Cllr Mrs E.A. Rickard
Christmas Festival Committee	Cllr Mrs E.A. Rickard

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

RESOLVED: that the appointments to outside bodies and cheque signatories for 2014/15 be approved as in the minutes subject to the amendments as set out above.

19. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2013/2014

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2843.

The report included Sections 1, 2 and 4 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2014. Section 4 was included for information and the Town Clerk outlined the content of Sections 1 and 2.

The recommendation was moved and seconded, put to the vote and declared to be carried. It was therefore:

RESOLVED: that Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2014 - the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement - be approved for submission to the External Auditor.

20. MOTION TO DAPTC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 11 June 2014, it was recommended that a motion be put to the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils' Annual General Meeting, asking that the requirement to hold an annual town meeting be repealed.

The following wording was proposed:

That the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils request the National Association of Local Councils to ask the Government to repeal the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 para 14, that requires all town and parish councils to hold a statutory parish (town) meeting each year. It is considered that for councils, such as Bridport Town Council, which allow representations from the public at all formal meetings then it should not be necessary to hold an annual parish (town) meeting.

Members discussed the motion and it was emphasised that this was intended to refer to only those councils that have arrangements in place to allow for members of the public to make representations at meetings.

RESOLVED: that the motion be approved for submission to the DAPTC, subject to approval of the final wording being delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

21. COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were reported for information:

- (1) The Town Mayor reported her list of engagements, ENCL: 2844 and thanked everyone who had been involved in the Freedom March on Sunday 22 June. It had been a great day for the town.
- (2) The Leader of the Council hoped members would be able to help out on the Town Council stall at the Charter Fair on Saturday 5 July.
- (3) The Town Clerk thanked all the Town Council staff who helped out at the Freedom March and also highlighted the support from local organisations and businesses.

The meeting closed at **7.45 p.m.**

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 23 September 2014