

At a MEETING of the **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held in Mountfield, Bridport on Tuesday 29 November 2011 at 7.00 p.m.

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

Cllr G.J. Ackerman	C.M. Ray
Miss S.A. Brown (until 8.23pm)	Mrs M.J. Ray
Ms L.L. Glover (until 8.12pm)	Ms G.E. Summers
Ms R.C. Kayes	D.R. Tett (until 8.20pm)
P.J. Lathey	K.G. Wallace (until 7.47pm)
C.O. Michell	Ms S.J. Williams

PUBLIC FORUM

Prior to the meeting, the Town Mayor, Cllr D.G. Rickard made a presentation to the the retiring mace bearer, Mr Bert Burden, to mark his 24 years in the role, covering 15 Town Mayors.

The following former Town Mayors also paid tribute to Mr Burden: Councillors D.R. Tett and Miss S.A. Brown; Mrs J. Dunford and Mrs D. Munday. Mr C. Whitlock, fellow mace bearer, also thanked Mr Burden for all his work on behalf of the town.

34. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllrs: P.J. Colfox, J.T. May and Ms A-M.A. Vincent.

35. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Cllr Ms R.C. Kayes declared a personal interest in the item on the Local Plan, in the Environment and Social Wellbeing minutes (minute 45), as a member of the West Dorset District Council members' working group on the Local Plan.

Cllr P.J. Lathey declared a personal interest in the item on the Review of Outpatient Services at Bridport Community Hospital, in the Environment and Social Wellbeing minutes (minute 47) as an employee of the Ambulance Trust. Although it was not a prejudicial interest, he took no part in the discussions or decision on this item.

Cllr D.G. Rickard declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Finance and General Purposes minute 38(b) as an employee of Palmers Brewery and left the room whilst discussions took place and a decision taken on this item.

Cllr Ms G.E. Summers declared a personal interest in the item on the Review of Outpatient Services at Bridport Community Hospital, in the Environment and Social Wellbeing minutes (minute 47) as the West Dorset District Council representative on the Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee.

Cllr K.G. Wallace declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item on the Review of Outpatient Services at Bridport Community Hospital, in the Environment and Social Wellbeing minutes (minute 47) as an employee of the NHS Trust. He left the room whilst this item was discussed and a decision taken.

37. STANDING ORDER 14 (b)

The following question had been submitted by Councillor K.G. Wallace.

Question:

Why has there not been a debate at Bridport Town Council regarding the proposed change from weekly to fortnightly bin collection?

This proposal is to be presented to the West Dorset District Council Executive on 13 December. Surely there is a need for public consultation before making policy. This also shows the need for District Councillors to have a platform to inform the Town Council of what is happening at District level.

Reply from Councillor Ms R.C. Kayes:

West Dorset District Council has agreed in principle to join the Dorset Waste Partnership as from April 2013 and discussions on moving towards a uniform collection policy across Dorset have been taking place over the past four years. This is being put forward at a county wide level, although there has been one presentation to District Councillors and the proposed policy will be going to the Executive on 13 December and then full Council on 5 January. In terms of consultation, my understanding is that the policy has been based on the outcome of the Dorset wide consultation on the joint municipal waste strategy, which the Town Council commented on in October 2008.

The proposed policy for increased re-cycling and collecting food on a weekly basis are things that the Town Council has sought. There are issues that will be of concern in Bridport, mainly around the use of wheeled bins and the containers to be used. It is understood that there will be local presentations on the proposals, when they are agreed. There will also be scope to consider local circumstances regarding size of containers etc. If the proposed policy is agreed and West Dorset District Council confirms its membership of the Partnership, it is likely that any changes to collection in this area would take place, at the earliest, in 2013. If there are any concerns regarding the proposed policy then these should be passed to the District Councillors.

Councillor K.G. Wallace asked a supplementary question and sought confirmation on whether these matters were the responsibility of the County or the District Council, as he understood that, pending joining the Waste Partnership, West Dorset retained responsibility for their collection policies.

Councillor Ms R.C. Kayes said that she would seek confirmation on this position.

38. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) PLANS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meetings of the Plans Committee held on 3 October and 31 October 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 3 October and 31 October 2011 be received.

(b) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the special meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 4 October 2011 and the meeting of 23 November 2011 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor C.M. Ray.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the special meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 4 October 2011 be received and the minutes of the meeting of 23 November 2011 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted as set out below: -

(Minute 70) TOWN HALL AND BUCKY DOO WORKING PARTY

During consideration of this item only, Cllr Mrs M.J. Ray was in the chair.

The Town Clerk explained that, as part of the celebration of the re-opening of the Town Hall, it was felt that it would be good to mark the occasion with a bottled beer from Palmers. This has been done previously for major town events, such as marking the Charter in 2003 and had always been well received. It was also very relevant for the Town Hall, as a beer was brewed to mark the opening of the building. The Town Council would only pay for the bottles that it takes (£19.63 per case of 12 bottles), which it could provide at the opening events or have the option to sell at other events it attends during the year, such as the Food Festival and the Melplash show. The costs to be met from the Town Hall budget. Palmers would also the beers in its shop. It was considered to be a good arrangement that would help to promote the Town Hall, mark the opening of the building, provide a unique souvenir of the project and also offer the potential to raise some money to help cover some of the costs.

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

RESOLVED: that the arrangements for Palmers to provide a bottled beer to mark the opening of the Town Hall be noted and endorsed as set out above.

(Cllr D.R. Tett asked for his abstention to be recorded).

(Minute 74) CEMETERY MANAGEMENT POLICY

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

RESOLVED: that the draft management policy be approved for consultation with local funeral directors and monumental stonemasons.

(Minute 77) EXTERNAL AUDIT 2010/2011 – COMPLETION OF AUDIT

The Office Manager was thanked for all his work on the preparation of the annual statement of accounts.

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

RESOLVED: that the completion of the audit be noted.

(Minute 78) FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2011/2012 – 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 2011/2012 be approved.

(Minute 85) APPOINTMENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL

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

RESOLVED: that Cllr G.J. Ackerman be appointed to the Town Hall and Bucky Doo Working Party.

(c) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 16 November 2011 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Ms R.C. Kayes.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 16 November 2011 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted as set out below:

(Minute 45) LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

Members discussed the recent consultation process on the new District wide Local Plan. Whilst the consultation and the hard work of District Council

officers was welcomed, it was generally felt that there was still a need further consultation to ensure that all the issues were picked up. It was noted that there was a very tight timescale to ensure approval of a draft Local Plan but it was felt that West Dorset District Council should be asked if it would be willing to allow a further extension to the consultation process.

The Town Clerk said that he would raise this request with the District Council's Director of Environment, who he was due to meet that week.

Members generally supported the principles set on in the minutes as a response to the consultation on the Local Plan.

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

- RESOLVED: (1) that the principles set out in the minutes be supported as a response to the consultation process on the new district-wide Local Plan.
- (2) that the Town Clerk make representations to West Dorset District Council regarding a possible extension to the consultation timetable.

(Minute 46) MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES CONSULTATION

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

- RESOLVED: that NHS Dorset be invited to attend a meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee to discuss its proposals for providing care for people with serious mental illness in West Dorset.

(Minute 47) REVIEW OF OUTPATIENT SERVICES AT BRIDPORT COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

It was reported that at the meeting of the County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee it had been reported that NHS Dorset had agreed an additional three months of funding for the services. A decision on the future of the services would not now be taken until July next year. The Committee had agreed to establish a task and finish group to look at the services provided in community hospitals.

Councillor Ms R.C. Kayes moved and it was seconded that the recommendation be amended to read:

"In addition Dorset County Council be asked to agree that a representative from Bridport Town Council be included in the membership of the task and finish ad hoc group looking at services in community hospitals."

The amendment was put to the vote and declared to be carried. The substantive motion, as amended, was put to the vote and declared to be carried. It was therefore:

RESOLVED: that concerns be raised regarding the reported withdrawal of services at Bridport Community Hospital and that representations be made to NHS Dorset seeking information on the review including the timescale, the scope of the consultation to be undertaken and the opportunity for public involvement in the consultation process. In addition, Dorset County Council be asked to agree that a representative from Bridport Town Council be included in the membership of the task and finish ad hoc group looking at services in community hospitals.

39. LOCALISM ACT

Councillors considered a policy briefing from the National Association of Local Councils, ENCL: 2469.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted and the Town Council consider further reports on the implications and opportunities arising from the Localism Act.

40. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS (NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING, COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY, TECHNICAL REFORMS OF COUNCIL TAX – PROCESS TO RESPOND

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2471.

RESOLVED: that the process to respond to these consultation documents be approved as follows: the Plans Committee agree the response to the Neighbourhood Plan and Community Infrastructure levy documents and the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, agree the response on Technical Reforms of Council Tax.

41. MACE BEARER

The Town Clerk reported that the Cemetery Superintendent, Paul Violet, had stepped in to cover as Mace Bearer on Remembrance Sunday and that he hoped that he would be willing to continue in the role long term.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to make an appointment as mace bearer.

42. COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were reported for information:

- (1) The Town Mayor reported his list of engagements, ENCL: 2470.
- (2) The Leader of the Council said that he had been informed of an urgent announcement that Councillor P.J. Lathey wished to make.

Councillor P.J. Lathey said that he felt that the Town Council should make a response to the announcement of the proposed closure of the Portland coastguard helicopter station in 2017.

The Chairman said that this was something that the Town Council needed to respond to urgently and he sought members agreement that the Town Clerk could respond under the Town Council's urgency procedure following consultation with a group of members to include the Town Mayor, Leader of the Council, Cllrs P.J. Lathey and Ms S.J. Williams. The arrangements were supported by the Council.

- (3) The Town Clerk reported that
- (a) The Late Night Shopping Festival would take place on Wednesday 7 December.
 - (b) The additional Christmas lighting, provided by the Town Council with support from the Chamber of Trade and Commerce and the Christmas Festival Committee, was in place and had been well received.
 - (c) The Christmas Tree Festival was to take place in the United Church between 6 and 14 December and the Town Council's tree will have a Town Hall theme.

The meeting closed at **8.35 p.m.**

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 31 January 2012