

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday
3 July 2013 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: D.G. Rickard (from item 2)

G.J. Ackerman
Ms R.C. Kayes

Ms A-M.A. Vincent
Ms S.J. Williams

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: that Cllr D.G. Rickard be elected Chairman of the Committee for the municipal year 2013/2014.

Councillor D.G. Rickard in the Chair

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: that Cllr Ms A-M.A. Vincent be elected Vice Chairman of the Committee for the municipal year 2013/2014.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the Public Forum.

3. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllrs E.T. Colfox and Ms L.L. Glover.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 March 2013 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. WELFARE REFORM UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report submitted to the District Council, ENCL: 2708.

Members discussed the report and made the following comments:

- there was a need for more information on the households and people being affected by the changes in benefits and what support they needed and were receiving.
- the Social Inclusion Working Group could be convened to discuss this issue and look to get another meeting of the Inter Agency Forum.

- it would be helpful to have information from West Dorset District Council on how the benefits scheme was being delivered and what information it provided.
- it was agreed that it would be good to meet with the relevant officers and members at the District and County Councils, to consider this matter. This would then enable the Town Council, through its Social Inclusion Working Group and the Inter Agency Forum, to assess where support was needed locally.

RESOLVED: that a meeting be arranged with West Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council, to discuss the impact of the welfare reform and changes to the benefits system.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

The Chairman reported that, whilst there had been no further meetings to discuss the audit, work continued to improve the environmental efficiency of the Town Council's buildings. This included a recent thermal imaging survey of Mountfield.

It was also noted that the solar panels on Plottingham continued to perform very well. The latest figures would be reported to members.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

8. COMMUNITY JUSTICE PANELS

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2706.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council continue to support the CJP project and endorse the proposal to assess the feasibility of moving towards charitable status.

9. COMMUNITY ENERGY SCHEMES – HOW COMMUNITIES CAN MANAGE AND GENERATE THEIR OWN ENERGY

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2707.

It was commented that there were examples of community schemes in the area and the Chairman said that he would discuss this with the relevant groups and consider a response. It may be that the response should come from the relevant group and not the Town Council.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee be given delegated authority to decide whether the Town Council needed to respond to the Government's Community Energy Call for Evidence.

10. DEFIBRILLATOR - UPDATE

The Town Clerk updated members for information and said that it was still intended to put the machine on the east side of the Town Hall.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

11. DISTRICT COUNCIL HOUSING STRATEGY

It was reported that it was understood that later this year there were to be two briefings with implications for future housing provision – one to initiate a consultation on the phasing and design of the Vearse Farm development and one from the County Council, regarding its property holdings in the town. More information would be reported when these briefings had been confirmed.

In terms of the Housing Strategy, it was understood that this would be going out for consultation again later in the year.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

12. HEALTH SERVICES COMMISSIONING

Cllr Ms R.C. Kayes provided an update on the latest position with the establishment of the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group. The Health Watch Group was also being set up and was looking for a non-executive director. There were also some developments relating to the Hughes Unit, with a continuing campaign to safeguard its future.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

13. CHANGE TO DELIVERY OF YOUNG PEOPLES' SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION IN WEST DORSET – WEST RIVERS HOUSE

Cllr Ms R.C. Kayes reported that it was hoped that an announcement would soon be made to confirm the future management of West Rivers House. There had been good support from the County Council, District Council, Magna Housing and Bournemouth Churches Housing Association and good progress had been made to agree proposals for the future of the building.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

14. OPEN SPACES TASK FORCE

The notes of the meeting of 26 June (circulated prior to the Committee meeting) were considered.

RESOLVED: that the notes be received and the actions set out endorsed.

15. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Spirit of Bridport – Watershed had been commissioned to produce three short videos about the town, which would be a legacy of the Spirit project and help with future marketing of Bridport.

Skills Training Bridport was trying to obtain funding for a co-ordinator and was working on a number of projects.

Transition Town – eco homes in the area would be open during Dorset Heritage Week in September. The Home in Bridport project was also running cooking workshops, for young people at the Youth Centre.

16. FUTURE REPORTS

- Proposals and ideas for a community scheme to address dog mess.

The Chairman also commented that, although not on the agenda for this Committee, at the Highways and Transportation Sub Committee the previous week, he had raised the issue of dropped kerbs for cycle routes. He encouraged members to report any locations where dropped kerbs were needed, so that a list could be compiled.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items raised.

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

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 28 August 2013