

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday
7 November 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Ms R.C. Kayes (Chairman)
G.J. Ackerman Ms A-M.A. Vincent
D.G. Rickard

PUBLIC FORUM

Roger Guppy from the Bride Valley Friends of Rivers spoke regarding the work of the group and their interest in being involved in the management of Asker Meadows. The Group had also written to the Town Council, seeking support for a further fish pass at Gundry's Weir.

It was reported that the letter would be raised at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and that the Bride Valley Friends of Rivers would be one of a number of groups, who it was hoped could be part of the proposed management steering group for Asker Meadows.

18. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Ms L.L. Glover and Ms S.J. Williams.

19. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 June 2012 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21. ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

Mr Brian Atkinson made a presentation on the outcome of an environmental audit of the Town Council's building and services.

Members welcomed the presentation and the findings in respect of energy use and the options for developing a carbon management plan for the Town Council. It was agreed that the findings needed to be discussed in some detail and an action plan produced. It was felt that this could best be done through a working group of members drawn from this Committee.

Brian was thanked for all his work and he confirmed that he would be very happy to work with members on developing an action plan.

RECOMMEND: that the initial findings of the environmental audit be noted and members be appointed to serve on an Environmental Initiatives Working Group (up

to 7 members) to consider the detail of the report and bring forward an action plan for consideration by this Committee.

22. COMMUNITY JUSTICE PANELS

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2601.

It was reported that former Bridport Police Inspector, Alan Jenkins, had been appointed as the new part time co-ordinator for the Community Justice Panel (CJP) project, following his retirement from Dorset Police. He would be taking up the post on 7 January 2013 and his contract will run for six months.

Prior to starting in post, Alan would start to look at the work needed to evaluate the project. He would also be meeting with all the facilitators and looking to set up some refresher training and seek to ensure referral cases to the CJP start to come through again in the New Year.

It was noted that the CJP Steering Group would meet next on 16 November 2012.

Members welcomed the appointment of the new co-ordinator and looked forward to the project continuing, with cases coming forward in the New Year.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and, after the outcome of the forthcoming election was known, the new Police and Crime Commissioner be sent a summary of the CJP project and asked if it would be possible for representatives from the CJP Steering Group to meet with the Commissioner, to discuss the project.

23. PART TIME NIGHT STREET LIGHTING

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2602.

In discussion, the Committee generally supported the environmental objectives of the proposal. However, members did have concerns, as set out below:

- the proposals needed to be publicised, through the local papers, and comments sought to try to assess where people did have concerns. There could, for example, be adverse effects on steep roads or roads where pavements were narrow, such as Victoria Grove.
- community safety and the safety of women needed to be considered, with an assessment made of which were the well used routes, which could be affected. If the proposals were publicised in the local press, then it would be interesting to see the response.
- it was asked if a later time than 12 midnight could possibly be set for Friday and Saturdays, when more people were out later.
- if the proposals were to be introduced as planned (within the next six months) then the scheme should be piloted for six months after introduction, to make an informed assessment of the effects.

RECOMMEND: that the comments set out above be agreed, in response to the proposal from Dorset County Council to introduce part time night street lighting.

**24. WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL –
DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING STRATEGY**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2603.

It was noted that the Town Council had been invited to participate in the review of the Strategy and it was asked if it could have representatives on each of the working groups, if possible.

RESOLVED: that the commencement of the review of the District Council's Housing Strategy be noted and the District Council be asked if the Town Council could be represented on the working groups.

25. BUS SERVICES

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2605.

In discussion, it was noted that there were a number of ongoing issues concerning bus services in the area, including:

- changes to service 31.
- X53 Sunday Service.
- future of concessionary travel before 9.30am.
- the service for local residents, including in Court Orchard, to the Hospital.
- services from Burton Bradstock.
- the possible establishment of a community transport fund, to assist with transport costs.
- other options for the Town Council's Park and Ride scheme.

It was noted that bus issues were being discussed with WATAG through the Highways and Transportation Sub Committee and that it was understood that there was to be a review of local bus services in the area, led by Dorset County Council.

RESOLVED: that ongoing issues relating to bus services in the area be discussed further with WATAG and raised as part of the proposed review of local bus services, which it was understood would be undertaken by Dorset County Council. It was noted that the Town Council had already asked to be involved, with WATAG, in that review.

26. RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES - DEFIBRILLATOR

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2604.

Members welcomed the proposal to place a defibrillator in the Town Hall and agreed that this matter and potential funding be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED: that the funding options for a defibrillator be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

27. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN/FLOOD PLAN

The Town Clerk reported on recent discussions with the Environment Agency and the proposal to develop the Flood Plan. This would be based on their template, taking account of the experiences of the local flooding in July and the recent Flood event, hosted by the Environment Agency.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to draft the Flood Plan.

28. OPEN SPACES WORKING GROUP

The Committee received the notes of the meeting held on 9 October 2012, including updates on ongoing projects.

RESOLVED: that the notes of the Working Group be received and endorsed.

29. HEALTH SERVICES

The Town Clerk reported a letter sent to parishes from Blandford Forum Town Council, asking if other councils had similar issues with transport for outpatients, following changes to services delivered at community hospitals. The letter asked whether other councils would wish to join Blandford Forum in looking to see whether there was any scope for joint representations to be made to relevant agencies and to consider possible transport options.

Members felt that this was something that should be looked at.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk notify Blandford Forum Town Council that this Council would be interested in being part of any joint parish initiative, looking at options for community transport schemes for outpatients.

30. LOCAL PLAN AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

Members felt that the Town Council needed to consider its position on a neighbourhood plan and potential options for working with neighbouring parishes. It was felt that, as with the draft Local Plan, a working group, including members from this Committee and the Plans Committee, should discuss this matter and report back with recommendations. It was also noted that the possible area for a neighbourhood plan would be discussed with BLAP.

Members also discussed the timetable for the new Local Plan, which it was understood was due to be considered by the Inspector in the Spring of next year.

RECOMMEND: that a working group of members meet to discuss and report back on the options for a Bridport area neighbourhood plan.

31. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT

The Town Clerk reported that the National Association of Local Councils had strongly supported the proposal for local town and parish councils to be able to submit proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act. The Government was currently considering the responses.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

32. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

The following reports were received:

Councillor Ms A-M.A. Vincent raised an issue from the Citizens' Advice Bureau, asking if the Town Council could support its representations to West Dorset District Council concerning charges for recycling, bearing in mind that it was a registered charity.

The Committee agreed that the Town Clerk should raise this matter with the District Council.

Councillor Ms R.C. Kayes reported on the work of Skills Training Bridport, including the Dorset Adult Learning project, which would provide up to 20 hours of training, initially for local people, starting within the next week. The Town Council was thanked for its grant funding to help establish Skills Training Bridport.

Councillor Ms R.C. Kayes reported back on the Spirit of Bridport, which was now beginning to look at next year's events.

Councillor D.G. Rickard reported on Transition Town Bridport and the Skills Reliance Project and its recent successful work with five young people. Transition Town Bridport had also been invited to take part in the development of the Communities Living Sustainably Project, for Bridport and Dorchester.

The updates were noted.

33. FUTURE REPORTS

There were no additional reports requested.

34. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk reported that the Headteacher at The Sir John Colfox School had written to inform the Town Council that the school had begun a round of consultations, to seek views with regard to changing the status of the school to an academy. Councillors had been invited to attend a consultation meeting with parents on 21 November 2012 at 7.00pm at the school.

The meeting closed at **9.10 p.m.**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 20 March 2013