

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 9 September 2013
at 7.00 p.m.

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

PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs Denise Fletcher spoke regarding the nuisance caused by dog fouling,
particularly on the beach in West Bay.

18. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr G.J. Ackerman.

19. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 July 2013 were confirmed
as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21. WEST DORSET AND WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND HOUSING STRATEGY REVIEW 2013

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2721.

Members discussed the general approach of the Strategy and commented on
some of the issues, such as the need to look at different ways to provide affordable
housing, energy efficiency and the increased reliance on the private rented sector.

It was noted that there was an open day on 16 September in Mountfield and that
the deadline for comments was 30 September.

RECOMMEND: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to respond to the
draft Strategy subject to consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the
Committee and the Leader of the Council.

22. DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL – COMMUNITY CONSULTATION EXERCISE ON THE FUTURE SHAPE OF SOCIAL CARE SERVICES/SPECIALIST HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2718.

Members reported back on the launch event for the consultation, which was held on 5 September.

It was noted that at this stage, the County Council was seeking views on service priorities, which would inform their asset management strategy. It was understood that the County Council was looking at different options to provide these services and rationalise its asset holdings in Bridport. Areas being looked at included the provision of care for the elderly and there was also to be a review of the youth service.

There was to be full consultation later in the year and there was a need for more information before a response could be agreed. However, at this stage, members felt that the Town Council should emphasise its concern regarding any proposal that may come forward to reduce the level of care provided for older people in Bridport. In particular, the services provided by Sydney Gale House should continue to be provided by the County Council, especially at a time of rising demand. Bearing in mind the proposed review of youth services, it would also wish to highlight the need and demand for the Youth Service, which it was important to retain in Bridport.

RECOMMEND: that at this stage and pending the further public consultation, the initial comments above be agreed in response to Dorset County Council's community consultation exercise on the future shape of social care services/specialist housing and accommodation

23. PROPOSALS AND IDEAS FOR A COMMUNITY SCHEME TO ADDRESS DOG MESS

Members discussed the options for addressing concerns regarding dog waste, particularly on the beach at West Bay. Whilst West Dorset District Council was responsible for the beach and the dog warden service, members felt that it would be helpful to see if there was any interest in volunteers monitoring the situation. This could be raised through the local papers.

Volunteers could be given bags and be a visible presence at times on the beach, to seek to encourage people to dispose of their dog's waste. However, it would be important to specify what the role entailed and that they would not have an enforcement role and not put themselves in a difficult position. This would need to be discussed with West Dorset District Council to get their views and to see if such a scheme was feasible. It would also be discussed with the West Bay Forum and the newly formed Dorset Dogs group.

RESOLVED: that the options for a community dog waste scheme be discussed with West Dorset District Council and at the Town Council's Open Spaces Working Group and be reported back to the next meeting of this Committee.

24. THE DORSET AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY PARTNERSHIP DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN 2014-2019

Consideration was given to a report submitted to the District Council, ENCL: 2719.

RECOMMEND: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to respond to the draft Plan subject to consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee and the Leader of the Council.

25. LOCAL PLAN MODIFICATIONS – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

It was reported that the timetable for consultation had been revised. It had been extended until 25 October 2013, based on a revised document being issued on 13 September 2013.

It was noted that the Local Plan Working Group would look in detail at the document and it would be proposed that a Special Council meeting be held to agree the response at the end of October. The dates for the Working Group to meet would be confirmed but the proposed meeting on 16 September would now have to be changed.

Members felt that it would be helpful if the District Council could come and talk to the Town Council about their approach to the Vearse Farm site, so that people were aware of how they proposed to take this forward.

RESOLVED: that the latest position be noted as above.

26. ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

The Town Clerk report on the continuing work to improve the environmental efficiency of the Town Council's buildings. This included:

- a thermal imaging survey of Mountfield to identify heat loss.
- improvements to the windows to reduce draughts
- "person activated" lighting in toilets and kitchens in Mountfield
- doors at the rear of Mountfield to help retain heat.
- zip boilers in kitchens rather than kettles
- options for future heating of Mountfield were continuing to be looked at.

Also the solar panels at Plottingham continued to perform very well. The latest figures, as at end of August, showed that over £3,400 had been received in feed-in tariff payments. This meant that, since they were installed in November 2011, over 35% of the cost of the panels had already been recovered.

It was intended to draw up an action plan for further initiatives, to be reported back to this Committee.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

27. COMMUNITY JUSTICE PANELS UPDATE

It was noted that the next meeting of the CJP Steering Group was to be held on 10 September and the update from that meeting could be reported to the full Council.

RECOMMEND: to receive an update for information on the Community Justice Panel project.

28. HEALTH SERVICES COMMISSIONING

It was noted that Dorset County Council had issued information on their Health Scrutiny role and that this had been circulated to all members.

A new community group - Crisis and Care - had also been established to look at mental health support in Bridport.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

29. OPEN SPACES UPDATES, INCLUDING ASKER MEADOWS, BOROUGH GARDENS, FISHERMAN'S GREEN

Members received updates on each of these projects.

RESOLVED: that the updates be noted.

30. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Spirit of Bridport – the 3 videos promoting Bridport were to be launched at an event scheduled for 28 September.

Skills Training Bridport – funding was being sought to support the appointment of a co-ordinator.

Transition Town – a number of eco-homes were to be opened to the public this coming weekend - 14 and 15 September - to coincide with Dorset architectural heritage week.

Citizens Advice Bureau – the CAB was looking at a new development plan for the service.

31. FUTURE REPORTS

There were no further reports requested at this time.

32. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items raised.

The meeting closed at **8.25 p.m.**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 13 November 2013