

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday 9 September
2015 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: D.G. Rickard (Chairman)
K.C. Clayton J.S.L. Jones
E.T. Colfox Ms E.A. Rickard
Ms S.A. Horniman

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the public forum.

23. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors W.B. Irvine and
Ms R.C. Kayes

24. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15 July 2015 were confirmed
as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

26. PROPOSED MOTION – LIVING WAGE

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2996.

It was reported that the issue had not yet been formally discussed at the Chamber
of Trade and Commerce and members felt that it was important to ensure that
there was full discussion with the Chamber. It would also be helpful to ask the
Chamber for baseline information on the current position on local wages and to
assess the support for the Living Wage. Bearing this in mind, the second paragraph
of the motion should be re-worded by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the
mover of the motion, Councillor Julian Jones.

RESOLVED: that subject to revised wording for the second paragraph, the motion
be referred for discussion to the full Council.

27. DORSET COMMUNITY HUB

The Town Clerk reported that the Dorset County Council Cabinet Member,
Councillor Gill Haynes, would be attending the next full Council meeting, to update
members on the Community Hub project.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

28. DEMOCRACY EXHIBITION AND FUTURE CITIZEN'S FORUM

The Town Clerk reported on the preparations for the Democracy Exhibition and it was agreed that it would be good to look at the possibility of launching the proposal for a Citizens' Forum at the Exhibition. The Exhibition was to run from 28 September to 17 October in the Town Hall. Also the organiser, Robert Golden, had asked if the Council would wish to take part in a Democracy Workshop. The Chairman said that he would look at the proposal and discuss with Mr Golden.

RESOLVED: that the Democracy Exhibition be noted and the possibility of launching a Citizens' Forum or holding a Democracy Workshop be discussed further with the organiser.

29. DRAFT WASTE PLAN AND DRAFT WASTE SITES PLAN

Whilst the two Plans did not seem to impact on Bridport, members noted that, as part of the Waste Plan, other sites in the area were being looked at. Therefore, there was a need to ensure that the new facility at Broomhills would be managed and resourced effectively, in the light of any proposed changes being made elsewhere. The consultation closes on 23 September.

It was also reported that there were to be changes to the mini recycling centres in Bridport, with those at West Bay and the town centre Coach Park closing, as from late October. Members were surprised to hear this and concerned in particular about the implications for West Bay, bearing in mind the number of visitors. This should be raised with the Dorset Waste Partnership.

RECOMMEND: that comments be agreed on the Waste Plan consultation as above.

30. FUTURE OF THE COURT SERVICES CONSULTATION

Councillors considered the consultation and emphasised that any loss of court services requiring people to travel further distances was very regrettable. It was hoped that there would be no threat to the services provided at Weymouth.

The consultation closes on 8 October.

On a related matter, the Chairman highlighted the successful neighbourhood justice panel project and the growing support for restorative justice from magistrates, who previously had some concerns.

RECOMMEND: that comments be agreed on the court services consultation.

31. COASTAL COMMUNITIES TEAM

The Town Clerk reported on the establishment of the team. There had been one initial meeting of stakeholders, with a follow up meeting later that week. A report on the constitution of the team and support was on the next Finance and General Purposes Committee agenda.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

32. MANAGEMENT OF OPEN SPACES

The Town Clerk circulated copies of the latest version of the Management of Open Spaces policy. Any comments would be welcomed and the intention was that the policy would be finalised by the end of the year.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

33. OPEN SPACES WORKING GROUP

The Town Clerk circulated copies of the notes of the meeting of the Group held on 7 September. He highlighted the proposal to seek permissions/quotes to install further solar panels on the Mountfield compound, Cemetery workshop and possible additional panels at Plottingham.

RESOLVED: that the notes of the Working Group be received and the proposal to provide addition solar panels be supported.

34. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Skills Training Bridport - Cllr K.C. Clayton reported that there was to be a press release issued, re-launching the Job Club.

Youth Centre - Cllr K.C. Clayton provided an update on the latest position.

DAPTC - Cllr Ms S.A. Horniman highlighted recent discussions on the provision of Superfast Broadband and the need to encourage take up (particularly by local businesses), in areas where it has been installed.

Axminister Ring And Ride - Cllr Ms S.A. Horniman attended the recent AGM and reported on their services, which they were hoping would be publicised more widely, to increase take up in Bridport

Christmas Cheer and Food Festival - Cllr Ms E.A. Rickard reported that meetings of the Christmas Cheer Committee were going well and the Food Festival was due to start meeting again soon, to begin planning for next year.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

35. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk reported on a letter sent to all councillors from a Mr Gibbs, regarding what he considered was the impact of dogs being brought into the town centre, particularly on market days.

Members discussed the letter and commented that this was a difficult issue, as most dog owners were responsible. It was suggested that this could be discussed with local dog owners' groups, to see whether there was support for a campaign to highlight the town's welcome and support for responsible dog owners.

RECOMMEND: that the need for a local campaign to encourage responsible dog owners be raised with local dog owners' groups and be reported back.

The meeting closed at **8.40 p.m.**

The next meeting of this committee will be held on 21 October 2015