



BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2005-2006



Our third Annual Report

This is our third Annual Report which, together with our Bulletin and the town council website, is part of our drive to keep residents better informed about town council activities, services and points of contact.

The year 2005-2006 was another one of innovation and efficiency improvements by Bridport Town Council, which helped us to keep the increase in our share of the council tax precept to less than 1 per cent. At the same time we managed to extend our activities, while continuing to shoulder the cost (passed on to us when the district council withdrew its funding) of maintaining the town hall toilets. In his report below and on page 2, the town clerk, Ron Gregory, lists just some of the many activities undertaken by the town council. We are all indebted to him and his excellent staff.

I would also like to pay tribute to councillors of all political parties and none, for their continued willingness to work together for the good of the town. The Town Mayor for the municipal year, Sandra Brown, was once again exceptionally busy, and she reports on some of her many engagements on page 2.

Charles Wild, Leader, Bridport Town Council

Report on Town Council activities, 2005-6

from the Bridport Town Clerk, Ron Gregory

The municipal year 2005-6 was another very busy one, with the Town Council playing an active role delivering services and working with partner organisations on behalf of the Bridport community.

ALLOTMENTS: Our allotments continue to be well used with 81 plots occupied and 31 on the waiting list. The Bridport Allotments Society acts as a helpful link between allotment holders and the town council. A new retaining wall has been provided at Skilling as part of the Magna housing development. The council is consulting with neighbouring parishes about future provision of allotments. The council is also pursuing an opportunity of providing additional plots at Skilling and on land at the rear of South Street.

ASKER MEADOW continues to be well used by walkers and dog owners. The circus and carnival fair were again pleased to be allowed to use the meadows for their popular events.

CEMETERY: A new Cemetery Superintendent has been appointed and a replacement mower has been purchased costing £7,150.

EVENTS: The 60th Anniversary VE World War II and the Re-enactment of the New Trafalgar Dispatch were two very successful major events staged in Bridport during 2005 which involved a great deal of support work.

GRANTS: The Town Council continues to provide financial assistance to a range of organisations and community groups.

HIGHWAY PARTNERSHIP : The Town Council has worked in partnership with Dorset County Council, to provide improved street lighting at Plottingham and Longs Lane. The order for the works has been placed and the work is near completion.

Again, working as agents with Dorset County Council, Bridport Town Council maintains the highway trees in the town. All of the trees were inspected and the recommendation of the inspections dealt with.

Following requests from the town council, Dorset County Council has introduced 20 mph speed limits on the roads outside two of the schools in Bridport. A number of suggested changes to the on-street parking restrictions have been agreed and these are awaiting the publication of the relevant orders by the county council.

Also, the traffic calming system has been introduced on the roads adjacent to the Bridport Primary School, St Andrews Road.

Again, following pressure from the town council, the Highways Agency has announced its intention to carry out a much needed safety improvement to the A35 junction at Miles Cross. Together with the promised improvements on Sea Road South, this will go some way towards improving road safety on the trunk road.

MARKET: 2005-6 was another successful year for the market with average attendance of 78 stalls on Saturdays and 34 on Wednesdays, which is slightly up on the previous year.

The presence of the local Market Traders' Association and the Chamber of Trade and Commerce at sub-committee meetings has resulted in helpful debate; for example the start time for setting up stalls has been brought forward to help traders and reduce traffic problems. Dorset County Council has agreed to allow kerbside parking for traders in certain areas subject to the necessary traffic order.

(report continued on page 2)

MOUNTFIELD/MILLENNIUM GREEN: Bridport Town Council continues to support the popular gardens, meadow and woodland, all of which are open to the public. Donations have helped towards the provision of additional planting and a replacement flagpole that the Council has agreed to dedicate to the late Bernard Gale.

Five standard oak trees (paid for by the Friends of the Millennium Green) were planted on Coneygar Hill by local schools to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

The West Dorset Crime Prevention Panel provided most of the cost for an additional streetlight and a temporary CCTV camera in the ground to improve security.

OUTDOOR AMENITIES: The town council's outside staff continue to maintain the cemetery, amenity areas, play areas, football pitches etc. in excellent condition. They do this with a cheerful good nature and minimum of fuss.

PLANNING: Bridport Town Council is a consultee for planning applications. Over the past year 172 applications were considered and comments passed to West Dorset District Council.

PLAY AREAS: Endeavours are made to continually improve these areas. They are regularly inspected and repairs effected promptly. At Skilling Oval, paving slabs have been laid in the gateway where the grass had become badly worn.

A new section of chainlink fencing was erected on the boundary of the Peter Foote play area. A new metal fencing was provided at St Mary's play area to replace the wooden fencing, which had been vandalised.

RIVERSIDE GARDENS: This area is currently owned by Dorset County Council but maintained by Bridport Town Council. The current lease has expired and it has been suggested that the freehold is transferred to the town council; negotiations have been opened to achieve this.

SEATS: At the request of the Bridport Area Older People's Forum, the seat alongside the bus stop outside Woolworth's in East Street was replaced with a new one and moved to a safer position. A new seat was provided at Skilling Oval and a memorial seat, provided by public donations, was installed on the pavement at the junction of South Street with West Street.

TOWN HALL: Work continues on the development of the plans for the refurbishment of the town hall. The proposals provide a wonderful opportunity to improve public access, to explore the interpretation of the Fra Newbery paintings and to relate this fine listed building to Bucky Doo Square.

In the meantime the building has to be kept in good condition. In this year the hall, stairs, landing and first floor toilets were redecorated. Also, in conjunction with the improvements to Frampton's the butchers, a contract was let to remove redundant asbestos which had covered central heating pipes situated below the floor of the main hall; this allowed the butcher's shop to be extended upwards and in to the void between the old ceiling of the shop and the floor of the town hall.

Following the withdrawal of funding by West Dorset District Council, the town council still pays for the full running costs of the public toilets at the town hall. This year the ladies toilets have been refurbished; the suspended ceiling removed, new lights installed and the ventilation improved. The long term solution is to work with WDDC to provide a new set of toilets for the town centre before refurbishment works commence on the town hall building.

TOWN PLAN: The Bridport & West Bay Town Plan ,provides a

framework for the development of the town council's future policies, schemes and budgets.

BEHIND THE SCENES: agenda papers for committee meetings are now produced in a larger font and in different colours; while a publication policy has been established in response to DDA and Freedom of Information Act compliance. The town council website has been revamped and rather than lose the community web site it has been taken back temporarily into the fold and is currently being increasingly supported by community groups and local businesses.

CONCLUSION: The municipal year 2005/2006 has been similar to previous years in that it has been both a challenging and demanding year for officers and councillors alike. it is all about teamwork and effort.

Ron Gregory, Town Clerk

The Civic Year

During my third term of office, I again attended many different events in the towns of other Dorset mayors, as well as here in the town. Looking through my diary, I find that I attended well over three hundred events, plus the meetings, of course. Once again I was able to concentrate fully on this role thanks to the Leader of the Council.

A few of the highlights were: -

My Mayor's Civic Service in July 2005; the Carnival and Torchlight Parade; the Melpash Show; the final Military Bands event; meeting the President and General Secretary of the National Market Traders Federation, who chose Bridport to begin their national advertising campaign; the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service; the Fra Newbery exhibition at the Town Hall; the Christmas Tree Festival in the United Church; the Late Night Shopping evening; the Boxing Day swim off East Beach in aid of CLIC; the senior prize-giving at The Sir John Colfox school; Bridport being a finalist in the South West Food Awards; my walkabout on Easter Monday, enjoyed by all those who attended; my Civic Night in St Mary's Church, where so many local young musicians were able to show their talents.

The Trafalgar event and the Veterans' Sunday in August 2005, were both very special occasions indeed, being attended by many other mayors and dignitaries. The weather was kind to us, indeed it was almost too hot! The video made by Paul Skelton of both these events will be a lasting memory.

On a sadder note, Bernard Gale, Honorary Townsman, lost his fight will illness in January 2006. Just before I took over as Mayor, we also lost Rex Trevett, who was our other Honorary Townsman. The contribution made to Bridport by both these stalwarts was immense. This was plainly obvious by the warmth shown at both funeral services.

I would again like to thank my Escorts, whose help throughout the year remains essential and to my deputy, Geoff, who has conscientiously stood in when required, and who has taken over as Town Mayor for the municipal year 2006-7.

The Mountfield office staff are always available to provide much support and humour and have all helped me greatly. Sadly, Bernard Paull has decided to retire after nine years in post as Town Surveyor.

Councillor Sandra Brown, Town Mayor 2005-6

Bridport Town Council

Bridport Town Council is the parish authority for the town of Bridport. It is the fourth tier of government after Parliament, the County Council and the District Council. Its legal powers are granted to it and regulated by various government legislation. The Town Council supplements the provision of local government services in Bridport and provides a range of social and recreational facilities, while promoting and representing the town with other national and statutory bodies.

The Town Council offices are at
Mountfield, Rax Lane, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3JP.
Tel. no. 01308 456722
Fax no. 01308 456112
Email address: enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk
Website: www.bridport-tc.gov.uk

The council's offices are open Monday to Friday,
8.30 am–5.00 pm (Friday 8.30 am–4.30 pm).

Officers

Town Clerk: Mr Ron Gregory
Town Surveyor: Mr Daryl Chambers
Office Manager: Mr Paul Fuszard
Community Planning Officer: Miss Susan Anders
Administrative Officer: Mrs Linda Bullock
Office Staff: Mrs Jill Cox, Mr Steven Yarde

There are six other staff, who are: -
Mr Andrew Franklin (Senior Groundsman)
Mr Robert Goodland (Groundsman)
Mr Ray McLaren (Gardener and Market Superintendent)
Mr Paul Pinkett (Cemetery Superintendent)
Mr Colin Divall (Caretaker)
Mr Colin Sparkes (Deputy Market Superintendent)

The Town Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the Leader, and Committee Chairmen

The Town Mayor is elected annually by fellow councillors. The Town Mayor for the year 2006-7 is Councillor Geoffrey Ackerman, and his deputy is Councillor Frances McKenzie. Councillor Charles Wild was re-elected Leader of Council for a fourth consecutive year in May 2006. The three main committees are chaired by Councillor Martin Ray (Finance and General Purposes), Councillor Carole Murless (Plans) and Councillor Charles Wild (Environment and Social Wellbeing).

Town Councillors

Bridport's eighteen town councillors represent the two wards in the town. They are elected every four years. The last election was in May 2003: the next election will be held in May 2007.

North Ward:

Councillor Miss S.A. Brown, 67 North Allington, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 5DZ; tel. 01308-423078
Councillor A.L.G. Harrison, 17 Lake Lane, Bothenhampton, Dorset DT6 4JY; tel. 01308-459863
Councillor Ms R.C. Kayes, 4 Gore Terrace, Bradpole, Bridport,

Dorset DT6 3JD; tel. 01308-458068
Councillor Ms F.K. McKenzie, 204 Orchard Avenue, Bridport, Dorset DT6 5RL; tel. 01308-425068
Councillor R.H. Nicholls, 159 Victoria Grove, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3AG; tel. 01308-422679
Councillor C.M. Ray, 9 St Andrews Road, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3BG; tel. 01308-459095
Councillor Mrs M.J. Ray, 9 St Andrews Road, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3BG; tel. 01308-459095
Councillor R.J. Stoodley, Rogers Cottage, 88 St Andrews Road, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3BL; tel. 01308-456797
Councillor K.G. Wallace, The George, 43 Main Street, Bothenhampton, Dorset DT6 4BJ; tel. 01308-456454

South Ward:

Councillor G.J. Ackerman, 31 Crock Lane, Bridport, Dorset DT6 4DF; tel. 01308-458098
Councillor Mrs S.A. Bagnall, 46 Vernons Court, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3QF; tel. 01308-459232
Councillor Mrs C.L. Clare, 86 West Bay Road, Bridport, Dorset DT6 4AX; tel. 01308-425539
Councillor A.J. Fifield, 4 Meadowlands, Bridport, Dorset DT6 4SU; tel. 01308-456081
Councillor Mrs G.L. Fifield, 4 Meadowlands, Bridport, Dorset DT6 4SU; tel. 01308-456081
Councillor Mrs C.A. Murless, 68 St Michael's Lane, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3RB; tel. 01308-424824
Councillor H.B. Samuel, 9 Norfolk Court, East Street, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3LL; tel. X/D
Councillor D.R. Tett, Beech House, 1 De Legh Grove, West Allington, Bridport, Dorset DT6 5QY; tel. 01308-425070
Councillor C.D. Wild, 9g Station Road, West Bay, Bridport, Dorset DT6 4EW; tel. 01308-420808

The council and its committees

The full Council oversees all the activities of the town council. Three main committees cover the work of the council, namely Plans, Finance & General Purposes, and Environment & Social Wellbeing. These are supported by a number of sub-committees.

The Town Council meets six times a year at 7.00 pm normally on a Tuesday. The Plans Committee meets on Mondays on a four-week cycle. The Finance and General Purposes, and Environment and Social Wellbeing committees meet on Wednesdays, four or five times a year each. The sub-committees meet once a quarter.

Agendas are normally issued seven clear days before the meetings and are posted on public notice boards throughout the town and on the council's website (www.bridport-tc.gov.uk).

The press and public are welcome to attend all committee and full Council meetings and the public may put questions or make statements on any matter in a 30 minute public period at the beginning of each council meeting. Members of the public and press are only asked to depart if there are any confidential items on the agenda and this is normally dealt with as the last business of the meeting.

The minutes of the main committee meetings are available within ten working days following the meeting. The minutes are not a verbatim account of the meeting but detail the decisions and recommendations made. They are available to the public and can be found at the library, at the council office at Mountfield and on the town council website. They are also circulated to the various local media organisations.

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2006

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006

CURRENT ASSETS		INCOME	
Payments in advance	6,094	Precept	339,026
Debtors	21,399	Interest	21,630
Treasury Deposit	480,000	Allotments	943
Cash at bank	93,299	Cemetery	22,362
Cash in hand	<u>100</u>	Civic	145
TOTAL ASSETS	600,892	Frontages	590
		Market	98,504
CURRENT LIABILITIES		Amenity Areas and Playing Fields	1,169
Creditors	<u>105,507</u>	Mountfield	53,005
		Millennium Green	566
NET ASSETS	<u>495,385</u>	Town Hall	<u>8,606</u>
			546,546
REPRESENTED BY:		EXPENDITURE	
Capital reserve as at 1 April 2005	15,300	Administration	161,697
Net movement during the year	<u>-</u>	Office Expenses	16,372
Capital reserve as at 31 March 2006	<u>15,300</u>	Mountfield	22,198
		Millennium Green	13,385
General reserve as at 1 April 2005	411,179	Town Hall	28,677
Net surplus for the year	<u>68,906</u>	Cemetery	42,930
General reserve as at 31 March 2006	<u>480,085</u>	Civic	10,022
TOTAL RESERVES	<u>495,385</u>	Market	32,137
		Other Services	59,249
		Section 137	10,030
		Amenity Areas and Playing Fields	<u>80,943</u>
			<u>477,640</u>
		NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	<u>68,906</u>

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of Bridport Town Council as at 31 March 2006 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.