

At a MEETING of the **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, Bridport on Tuesday 28 March 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT Cllr Ros Kayes – Town Mayor (in the Chair)

Cllr	Geoffrey Ackerman	Julian Jones
	Sandra Brown	Gill Massey
	Kelvin Clayton	Maggie Ray
	Eddie Colfox	Martin Ray
	Keith Day	Anne Rickard
	Terry Harrison	Dave Rickard
	Barry Irvine	Sarah Williams

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Town Centre Traffic, including South Street Options

The Mayor welcomed the public to the meeting.

Public Forum

The following members of the public spoke in the Open Public Forum on the South Street Options:

Richard Freer supported the proposals to consult on a trial closure of South Street.

Gavin Fryer supported the proposed consultation on town centre 20 mph limits.

Mike Farmer supported the proposed consultation and felt that other traffic changes could be looked at, such as a mini roundabout at the junction of South Street, with East and West Streets.

Carole Murless had concerns regarding the proposal for South Street and commented on the potential impact relating to the dispersal of traffic on to other unsuitable roads and rat running through Skilling.

Robert Muhl, President of the Chamber of Trade, questioned why this was being considered at this time, the lack of quantified data and evidence, how the trial would be monitored and whether the outcome of the consultation would be binding. He also questioned the costs of a trial closure.

John Collingwood referred to Green Fortnight, the importance of reducing pollution and the benefits of pedestrianising the top of South Street.

Hannah Newman asked about the consultation, who would be consulted and the questions to be asked. She suggested some additional elements to be included within the consultation, including options for no change, relevant costings and the need for a separate consultation with businesses.

Debbie Peach emphasised the importance of access for deliveries for businesses in South Street and the importance of ensuring that businesses were fully consulted.

Lewis Gerolemou spoke as a former business owner in another town and said that pedestrianisation had increased his turnover.

Colin Divall referred to evidence that he had seen which demonstrated that pedestrianisation was beneficial to town centres.

48. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr Sarah Horniman.

49. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All the previously recorded interests declared under this item in the Committee minutes were noted.

51. STANDING ORDER 14(b)

There were no questions pursuant to standing order 14(b).

52. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 30 January 2017 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Sarah Williams.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 30 January 2017 be received.

(b) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 27 February 2017 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Sarah Williams.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 27 February 2017 be received.

(c) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 22 March 2017 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Maggie Ray.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 22 March 2017 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted, as set out below (each recommendation was moved, seconded and declared to be carried):-

(Minute 118 – 35) INVESTMENT REVIEW 2016/17 AND STRATEGY 2017/18

RESOLVED: that the Annual Investment Strategy for 2016/17 be adopted for 2017/18, subject to the Town Clerk bringing forward suggested revised wording to cover options for longer term, including ethical, investments.

(Minute 118 – 36) ASSET REGISTER

RESOLVED: that the Asset Register be approved for 2017 and the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to make any final amendments, before it is signed by the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Town Clerk.

(Minute 121) TOWN PLAN

RESOLVED: that the review of the Plan be considered by members during April and May and be reported back to this Committee and full Council in June 2017.

(Minute 128) CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED: that the calendar of meetings for 2017/18 be approved.

(Minute 145) PROPERTY MATTERS – MOUNTFIELD

RESOLVED: that the reported Heads of Terms for leasing rooms at Mountfield be approved as set out in Finance and General Purposes report ENCL: 3188 and the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to prepare the lease for completion.

(d) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 15 March 2017 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Dave Rickard.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 15 March 2017 be received and the

recommendations therein be adopted as set out below (each recommendation was moved, seconded and declared to be carried):-

(Minute 62) MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to finalise the response, in consultation with the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, taking account of the comments made by the Committee.

(Minute 63) ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT UPDATE

RESOLVED: that the Town Council reaffirms its commitment to its Climate Change Strategy and the Committee bring forward proposals for further initiatives and actions, including proposals to update the Strategy.

(Minute 64) HOUSING WHITE PAPER

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Committee Chairman, be given delegated authority to make any comments, as part of the consultation on the White Paper.

(Minute 65) SKY LANTERN AND HELIUM BALLOON PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED: that the following motion be approved:

“Many organisations have drawn attention to the problem of lantern and balloon releases which end up as litter on land or sea and pose a risk to livestock and marine animals which mistake balloons in particular for food. Balloons have been found ingested in endangered turtles, dolphins, whales and seabirds. Livestock have died after eating degraded lanterns, which are accidentally picked up by harvesting machinery and put into winter feeds.

Lanterns also pose a fire risk to crops in the summer months, to thatched roof properties, and are causing a number of false alarm call outs on the coast as people mistake them for distress flares. In April 2016 a sky lantern landed on a Dorset Nature reserve near Wareham starting a major gorse fire.

The call to ban balloon and sky lantern releases nationally is supported by the Marine Conservation Society, RSPCA, RSPB and the National Farmers' Union.

That the Town Council should advise any group organising an event on land owned by the Council that no such releases will be permitted. It also requests the Bridport Councillors who sit on West Dorset District Council to consider putting a similar motion to that Council.”

53. LOCAL PLAN REVIEW AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SITE ASSESSMENT RESPONSE

The Town Clerk's report, ENCL: 3192 had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Members made the following comments:

- 12 - Whilst most of the Local Plan sites were outside the Bridport parish, they all appeared to have issues and constraints. It was noted that the draft response stated that pending completion of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Town Council would not wish any of the sites listed in the Local Plan Review to be progressed.
- 17-ii - strengthen the comment on affordable housing to say that there was an urgent priority need for affordable housing and that the Town Council would strongly support genuinely affordable (social rent) housing.
- 22-i include reference to the comments previously submitted on the Local Plan, regarding Green Infrastructure.
- 23-i add a comment supporting modular housing, to provide affordable accommodation.

RESOLVED: that, subject to including comments as above, the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be given delegated authority to finalise and submit the Local Plan response as well as the response to the Neighbourhood Plan site assessment.

54. TOWN CENTRE TRAFFIC, INCLUDING SOUTH STREET CONSULTATION PROCESS

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3191.

Members discussed the report and the comments made in the Open Public Forum. It was noted that following any proposed consultation exercise, it would be necessary to discuss this matter further with the County Council, who, as the Highway Authority, would have to agree any future town centre traffic proposals, including any proposed changes to South Street. There would also have to be consultation with Highways England regarding any impact of a closure on the A35. However, it was generally agreed that to help inform those discussions and to gauge public opinion, a consultation exercise should be conducted to assess the support for a possible trial closure of South Street, as well as the other issues listed – speed limits etc. A trial closure, if supported, would enable a full evaluation of the impact of the closure of South Street. It was confirmed that, as stated in the report, there would be full consultation with the Chamber of Trade and local businesses.

In view of the suggestions made in the Open Public Forum on the consultation questions, it was felt that the questions should be reviewed and members asked to approve the final version of the consultation, before it was issued. It was hoped that this would happen before the end of April 2017.

RESOLVED: that a consultation exercise be undertaken on town centre traffic, including seeking views on a trial closure of South Street and town centre speed limits, subject to the wording and format of the consultation being reviewed and agreed by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 24 April 2017.

55. REPORT BACK FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Hat Festival - Cllr Terry Harrison reported that the arrangements for this year's event were well underway.

Arts Centre - Cllr Barry Irvine reported on recent staffing appointments, upcoming events and the position on funding for the capital improvement works. There was also concern regarding future District funding, in the light of the unitary proposals.

Citizens' Advice Bureau - Cllr Barry Irvine reported on the Wessex Water building works, the increase in benefits related referrals and the impact of the limited opening of the Job Centre.

Food Festival - Cllr Anne Rickard confirmed that arrangements were being made for this year's Food Festival.

Bridport Area Development Trust - Cllr Sarah Williams reported that the Literary and Scientific Institute project was progressing well. A fundraiser was to be held at The Ropemakers on 11 April 2017.

Museum – Cllr Sarah Williams reported that the Museum would be reopening soon, following completion of the restoration project.

56. COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were reported for information:

The Town Mayor reported her list of engagements, ENCL: 3190.

The Town Clerk reported that the next planning meeting of the Town Council would be held in the Town Hall on Monday 3 April 2017 at 7.00pm. Also the District Council and First Bus had agreed arrangements to enable First to continue to use the bus station in West Street.

The Leader of the Council was joined by all members, in thanking the Town Mayor for her work over the past year.

The meeting closed at **8.34pm**.

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 20 June 2017

The Annual Council (Mayor Making) will be held on 18 May 2016