

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

PRESENT: Cllrs: D.G. Rickard (Chairman from item 2)

J.P. Brodie	J.S.L. Jones
K.C. Clayton	Ms R.C. Kayes
Ms S.A. Horniman	Ms E.A. Rickard
W.B. Irvine	

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: that Cllr D.G. Rickard be elected Chairman of the Committee for the municipal year 2015/2016.

Councillor D.G. Rickard in the Chair

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: that Cllr Ms R.C. Kayes be elected Vice Chairman of the Committee for the municipal year 2015/2016.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the Public Forum.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs E.T. Colfox and Ms S.J. Williams.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 February 2015 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORKING GROUPS

The Town Clerk reminded members of the working arrangements for the Committee and its Working Groups, which were for members to take issues forward in between meetings of the Committee.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

7. TOWN PLAN PROJECTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2989.

In discussion, two items were suggested for consideration for inclusion in the new Town Plan:

- Establishment of Citizen's Forums – regular open public meetings.
- Options for Town Council to support the provision of affordable housing.

It was confirmed that there would be further opportunities for all members to propose items, prior to the Plan coming forward for adoption by the end of the year.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and the issues above be put forward for consideration in the new Town Plan.

8. MANAGEMENT OF OPEN SPACES

The Town Clerk reported that the management of open spaces policy document was being finalised and would be discussed further at the next Open Spaces Working Group.

In discussion of a related issue, it was asked if options could be brought forward for the Town Council to consider, regarding additional street cleaning.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and street cleaning options be reported back.

9. COMMUNITY JUSTICE PANELS

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2990.

RESOLVED: that the latest position on the Neighbourhood Justice Panels' project be noted as in the report.

10. OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION WORKING GROUP

It was hoped to hold the next meeting of the Working Group, including a site visit, on 31 July at 11am, but this would be confirmed.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

11. WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL – AREAS TO BE COVERED BY FUTURE POTENTIAL S106 ALLOCATIONS

The Town Clerk reported further on the recent meeting with the District Council, to consider issues that could potentially be included in S106 allocation discussions regarding Vearse Farm. The discussions covered previous issues identified by the Council – sports pitches, recreation, potential contribution to parking, public transport etc. No decisions were taken and there needed to wider discussion with

the community, including through the neighbourhood plan, prior to any possible application being submitted.

The Committee emphasised the need to invite Hallam Land to a future Council meeting to hear more about their proposals to consult with the community, including the local councils and the neighbourhood plan steering group.

On a related matter and bearing in mind the recent District and County ward boundary reviews, the issue of parish boundaries should also be discussed with Symondsburry Parish Council.

On the wider issue of S106 payments, it was agreed that the Town Council should raise with the District Council the need for the Town Council to be involved in early discussions on potential S106 agreements and to clarify the procedure on the allocation of S106 funds.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and the Town Clerk report back on the S106 allocation process.

12. DORSET COMMUNITY HUB

The Town Clerk reported that he had received an update from the County Council stating that the Feasibility Study for the Bridport Hub and replacement for Sidney Gale House had now been completed. This proposed that both buildings could be accommodated on the sites of the Fisherman's Arms Day Centre, the Highways depot and Household Recycling Centre. It was recommended that the construction be awarded as one package, but whilst there was funding for the Hub, the estimated £7.1m cost of replacing Sidney Gale was still unfunded. Further work needed to be undertaken, to identify the best options for the funding. The new local authority controlled trading company – Tricuro - who will be the operator of the new building, would be involved in this further work.

The County Council had agreed that the project should move forward, even without the funding for Sidney Gale House being identified and agreed that, subject to a suitable funding source being found, a planning application be submitted for the total scheme.

The Committee was very concerned regarding the uncertainty on the funding of the replacement for Sidney Gale House and also how the new service would be operated. It was felt that the proceeds from the sale of the Sidney Gale House land should go towards the replacement building and it was emphasised that the new building needed to be a "like for like" replacement, with care services provided at the lowest possible rate for local people. Members were concerned that this might not happen if a private, purely commercial, operator was brought in, rather than using the local authority controlled trading company, or a not for profit provider

The Town Clerk was asked to contact the County Council to seek more information and assurances on the replacement of this key local facility.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and the County Council be asked for assurances on the delivery and future management of the replacement building for Sidney Gale House as above.

13. DORSET COASTAL FORUM

The Chairman reported that the Coastal Forum was very successful with over 100 organisations involved. The last event in June was a celebration of its work of the last 20 years. It included a presentation on the Tidy Beaches and Litter Free Coast project. The Chairman had invited the project team to come to Bridport to discuss this issue.

Members commented on the need to raise the profile of litter free campaigns, especially to coincide with the opening of Broomhills. It was suggested that it might be good to have a zero waste working group at that time and also interesting to see what publicity Dorset Waste Partnership will be issuing when the new centre opens, including any promotional information for schools.

In discussion, it was reported that the signage on East Beach at West Bay should be looked at. There was signage to say that dogs were restricted to the east beach along the cliffs and whilst there was some signage on the potential danger from falling rocks, it was felt that there should be more prominent and permanent signage on the dangers, particularly for dog walkers. It was asked if this could be taken up with the District Council.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

14. BROOMHILLS UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported that it was understood that the Waste Transfer Centre was due to open in October this year.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

15. UPDATES ON OTHER ONGOING ISSUES

There were no further issues raised under this item.

16. ADDITIONAL CO-OPTees

Cllr J.S.L. Jones had asked for this item to be included and proposed that the Committee consider appointing co-optees.

This was discussed by the Committee and it was felt that this needed to be considered further, in the light of a wider discussion about how best to engage people in the work of the Town Council. This could include looking at how the Council's decision making bodies worked, the suggestion on Citizens' Forums and other ways to ensure the public had the opportunity to participate. The Town Council did have co-optees on other bodies - Market and Business Liaison Sub Committee, Open Spaces etc- and had sought to involve young people in its meetings and this issue should be considered further as part of this wider review. Initially, this could happen as part of the review of Standing Orders.

RECOMMEND: that the issue of co-optees and future ways of working for the Council's member level bodies be looked at as part of the Standing Orders Working Group and be reported back to the Best Value, Scrutiny and Town Plan Sub Committee.

17. SOLAR PANELS ON COUNCIL BUILDINGS

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Surveyor was looking at options for additional solar panels, including at the Mountfield compound, Cemetery Workshop and possibly at Mountfield.

RESOLVED: that the options for further solar panels be considered at the Open Spaces Working Group.

18. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Arts Centre - Cllr W.B. Irvine reported on his first meeting of the Arts Centre Board.

Christmas Cheer - Cllr Ms E.A. Rickard reported that she had attended a meeting of the Committee earlier that evening and planning was progressing for this year's event on 9 December.

Food Festival - Cllr Ms E.A. Rickard stated that the "thank you" reception for all supporters, which included the Town Council, was to be held on Thursday 23 July from 6.00-7.30pm at The Palmers Brewery Conference Centre.

Citizens' Advice Bureau - Cllr W.B. Irvine had met with the Manager of the CAB to discuss his role as a Trustee.

19. PROPOSED MOTION – LIVING WAGE

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2991 and the proposed motion from Cllr J.S.L. Jones in respect of the Living Wage.

Members discussed the wording of the motion and generally supported the principle of the motion but felt that, prior to it coming before Council, more information was needed. The Town Clerk was asked to seek the views of the Chamber of Trade and Tourism Association and confirm the legal position in seeking to include this as a condition of contracts. The Town Clerk should discuss this further with the mover of the motion and report back to the next meeting of this Committee.

RESOLVED: that further information be sought by the Town Clerk as above and the wording of the motion be reported back to the next meeting of this Committee.

20. CAB – LOCAL ADVICE NETWORK

The notes of the last meeting of the Network would be sent to members.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**21. DORSET CLINICAL COMISSIONING GROUP –
DORSET'S HEALTH SERVICES "THE NEED TO CHANGE" – UPDATE**

It was emphasised that it was important that the Town Council responded to the forthcoming further round of consultation, due to start in August.

RESOLVED: that it be noted that the further consultation on the review would commence in August.

22. CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee asked that its thanks be conveyed to Roy Mathisen for his report on housing provision in Bridport and that it was hoped that this document could be taken into consideration by the Neighbourhood Plan group and in future discussions by the Town Council on affordable housing.

The Committee also agreed to meet again on 9 September 2015 at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at **9.25 p.m.**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 9 September 2015