

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE  
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday 19 March  
2014 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: D.G. Rickard (Chairman)  
G.J. Ackerman Mrs E.A. Rickard  
Ms R.C. Kayes Ms A-M.A. Vincent

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no speakers in the public forum.

#### **70. APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr Ms S.J. Williams.

#### **71. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26 February 2014 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **73. DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL – BRIDPORT ADULT SOCIAL CARE CONSULTATION NEXT STEPS**

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2799.

In discussion, it was reported that it was understood that a favoured option, at this time, was for the local authority controlled trading company to deliver services. However, this was subject to consideration at the County Council Cabinet in early April. This was the option favoured in the Town Council's response, as it was felt to offer the best way, from the options available, to maintain local authority control and accountability.

Members agreed that the Social Inclusion Working Group should meet to consider the County Council's Cabinet report on the outcome of the consultation, when it was published. If possible, a Town Council representative should also attend the Cabinet meeting.

In response to the reported offer from Dorset County Council to come back to the Town Council with the results of the consultation, it was agreed that the County Council be invited to attend the next full Town Council meeting.

RESOLVED: that the response submitted by the Town Council be noted and Dorset County Council be invited to attend the next full Town Council meeting, to report on the outcome of the consultation.

**74. ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT**

Councillors considered the report and thanked Brian Atkinson for his further work. It was felt that it would be helpful to discuss this further with Brian, in terms of the updates and what other Town Council activities could be covered.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**75. DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL –  
REVIEW OF UNIVERSAL SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

Members agreed that discussion of this item should be taken in closed session at the end of the meeting, as some of the discussion may concern issues that, at this time, were not in the public domain.

RESOLVED: that, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission To Meetings) Act 1960, it was agreed that in the public interest the public be temporarily excluded, whilst the Committee considered this matter.

The item was discussed in closed session at the end of the other agenda items and it was at that time:

RECOMMENDED: that a working party of Council members be established to prepare the Town Council's response to the proposed consultation due, as part of the County Council's review of universal services to children and families.

**76. CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU – A PLACE TO CALL HOME**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2800.

Members welcomed the report and endorsed the recommendations. The following comments were also made:

- the impact of the bedroom tax on tenants was discussed and it was agreed that Magna should be asked how they could assist people affected by the tax.
- concern was expressed regarding the policy in respect of temporary housing for homeless people in private accommodation.
- the lack of affordable housing provision in the area and the numbers of affordable houses being built was an issue.
- there was a need to support young people in housing need. The housing needs of young people and support for them should be raised with the CAB.
- there was a difficulty for professional people in finding accommodation, to enable them to accept employment in the area.
- it was hoped that the CAB could be involved in developing the neighbourhood plan and assessing housing need.

RESOLVED: that the report be welcomed with the comments as above.

**77. SOCIAL WELLBEING AND INCLUSION WORKING GROUP**

As the proposed meeting of the Working Group did not take place, there were no issues to discuss.

**78. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Food Festival - the proposed charge for the use of Asker Meadows had been discussed.

Spirit of Bridport – a publicity leaflet had just been issued and the Group’s accounts had been audited.

Skills Training Bridport – the co-ordinator had been appointed, STB had taken over the Job Club, business mentors had been established and STB were managing rooms for hire in the Foyer.

Members mentioned the discussion the previous day, at the Market and Business Liaison Sub Committee, on the potential funding opportunities under the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership.

**79. FUTURE REPORTS**

There were no further reports requested.

**80. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Town Clerk reported that Oliver Letwin MP had invited the Town Council to a meeting to discuss lessons learnt from the recent bad weather. The Town Clerk was to attend.

The Chairman reported an e-mail from the Panel Co-ordinator, confirming the roll out of the Neighbourhood Justice Panels to Sherborne.

The meeting closed at **8.30 p.m.**

**The next meeting will be held on a date to be agreed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee**