

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday 2 November
2016 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Dave Rickard (Chairman)

Kelvin Clayton	Julian Jones
Sarah Horniman	Ros Kayes
Barry Irvine	Anne Rickard

PUBLIC FORUM

Gerry White, West Bay resident and Maureen Jackson, BLAP Chair, both spoke about the West Bay Coastal Defence Options consultation. Gerry White raised the option of an artificial reef, just below the water level and Maureen Jackson highlighted the need to take into account the Shoreline Management Plan and its policy for West Bay of “holding the line”.

34. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Eddie Colfox and Sarah Williams.

35. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 September 2016 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

37. WEST BAY COASTAL DEFENCE OPTIONS – PRESENTATION

Nigel Bennets, from the Environment Agency (EA), gave a presentation on the coastal defence options that were currently the subject of consultation.

The options were:

West Beach - new or extended rock protection structures at the beach. This could be a rock stub-groyne and set back flood wall (either behind the road or within the promenade) or an extension of the western harbour arm rock along the seawall.

East Beach - reinforcing the existing beach. This could be by a buried rock revetment and set-back flood wall, or constructing a set-back solid flood defence, along a line between the harbour and the eastern cliffs.

A combination of options could also be looked at.

These were the main issues of the consultation, but other issues being looked at included the Park Dean embankment.

The presentation was available online at: <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/WBCI>

In addition to comments during the presentation, members asked the following questions:

- a. What would be the impact of the Vearse Farm development?

The EA was involved in flood modelling in respect of that development.

- b. Could Gabions (stone filled baskets used to provide stability) be looked at?

The EA did not favour that approach, but the suggestion could be included in the Council's response.

- c. Could the proposed groyne be used as a fishing jetty?

This was not felt to be feasible.

- d. Could a submerged structure be looked at?

The EA felt this might cause obstructions for harbour users, but again this could be put forward in the consultation response.

Members thanked Nigel Bennets for the presentation and felt that this needed to be considered further. The full Council would be asked to agree the response.

RECOMMEND: that a response be approved on the West Bay Coastal Defence Options.

38. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

The Town Clerk reported that he had attended the recent meeting at the Town Hall, hosted by the Dorset Local Resilience Forum. He was looking to finalise the local plan, in the light of the information and additional support now available.

Members commented on the need to recruit more volunteers for the Plan.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

39. RIGHTS RESPECTING PROJECT UPDATE

The Chairman reported on the arrangements for the Open Public Meeting on Sunday 20 November at 3pm in the Town Hall, to consider having a Bridport Citizens' Charter.

RESOLVED: that the arrangements for the meeting be noted and supported.

40. COASTAL COMMUNITY FUND

The Town Clerk reported on the second round of applications for the coastal community fund and the meeting of the Coastal Community Team, which would receive detailed updates, on 7 November.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

41. WASTE TRANSFER STATION – IMPACT OF CHARGES

The Town Clerk reported the comments from Dorset Waste Partnership. Charging for some materials was introduced on 1 September and there did not appear to be any change in fly tipping on public land for the Bridport area. The Partnership was though aware of the concerns and they would be keeping their members updated.

Members felt that it was still too early to know the impact of the charges. It would be important to continue to monitor and collect any evidence of local incidents of fly tipping. It would also be interesting to see the results of the consultation on charging and whether the responses were broken down by area.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and further reports be received on this issue.

42. DORSET ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS AGM MOTIONS

Councillors considered ENCL: 3139. The DAPTC AGM was this coming Saturday and Councillor Sarah Horniman was the Town Council's representative. In view of the timescale, this Committee was being asked to agree the Town Council's position on each motion. Members commented as follows:

Motion 1. That this conference requests via NALC that the Department for Transport urgently amends the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (RTRA 1984) to include a mandatory maximum speed limit of 20 mph on all single track highways with no footway. (Chideock Parish Council)

This was not supported, as it was felt to be impractical.

Motion 2 That this conference requests via NALC that the Department for Communities and Local Government urgently amends The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 to include Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty as Statutory Consultees on Planning Applications in all areas which are within or adjoining an AONB, as is already the case for such bodies as the Canal and River Trust, the Environment Agency, the Garden History Society, Historic England, National Parks Authorities, Sport England and the Theatres Trust. (Chideock Parish Council)

This was supported.

Motion 3. Purbeck Area of DAPTC urges NALC to change the legislation to ensure that the Right to Buy is removed from Rural Exception Sites.

This was supported.

Motion 4. Purbeck Area of DAPTC requests NALC to seek legislation that requires cycling events of all types involving 10 or more cyclists to be licensed by district, borough or unitary councils.

This was not supported. It was felt that there was a need to define "event" and it was felt that this should apply to organised events of more than 50 participants. The number in the motion was too low.

Motion 5. *Purbeck Area of DAPTC supports that county, district, borough and unitary councils should inform the parish and town councils of any national consultation in a location specific to their area when they become a consultee.*

This was supported.

Motion 6. *Wareham St Martin Parish Council requests NALC to seek a change in legislation (Licensing Act 2003) to allow parish and town councils to once again become statutory consultees for any licences being specifically applied for in their areas.*

This was supported.

Motion 7. *Blandford Forum Town Council submits a request for Town Councils to have legal powers to split the roles of Chairman of Council and Mayor of the Town.*

This was not supported, as members felt that a Deputy Mayor could take on some of the ceremonial roles, if the Mayor was not able to do so.

RESOLVED: that the position of the Town Council on each of the DAPTC AGM motions be approved as above.

43. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Arts Centre – Cllr Barry Irvine said that the Centre was now open after its refurbishment. They were looking to raise around a further £8,000 by March to meet all the costs. The Trust now had a new Chairman, Nick Ziebland.

Citizens' Advice Bureau - Cllr Barry Irvine said that they had not yet signed the new lease with Wessex Water, but hoped to do so soon. They were embarking on a new training programme for volunteers and were ready to respond to the coming benefit changes. They would also be signing a new SLA with the District Council.

Food Festival – Cllr Anne Rickard said that planning was ongoing for next year and the AGM was to be held on 16 November in the Town Hall.

Christmas Cheer - Cllr Anne Rickard reported that arrangements were being finalised for this year's event on 7 December.

Youth Centre – Cllr Kelvin Clayton reported that the centre was fully operational and the new co-ordinator, Sarah Corke, was doing a great job.

44. FUTURE REPORTS

Issues raised for future meetings included:

- Support for Green Fortnight - March to April 2017
- Homelessness and local response.

45. CORRESPONDENCE AND UPDATES

The Committee considered the following updates:

- Clinical Services Review - Members commented on issues that would be featuring in the forthcoming consultation, including acute Hospital Services and Community Hospitals.

Although not part of the Clinical Services review, there was also to be a review of Mental Health Services, which could have implications for services for local people. It was understood that there was to be consultation on that as well.

The Clinical Services Review and related issues was to be the subject of the next Council Public Open Forum, to consider the issues ahead of the commencement of local consultation.

- Dorset County Council Community Hub – it was understood that this would be submitted for planning by April 2017.
- Neighbourhood Justice Panels – the roll out was still progressing.
- Community Bus Feasibility Study – the £2,000 grant from Dorset County Council had been confirmed and the brief for the work was being finalised. There would be a further opportunity for interested members to feed in comments on the brief.

The meeting closed at **9.15 pm**.

The next meeting of this committee will be held on 11 January 2017