

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE
of Bridport Town Council held in the Town Hall, Bridport on Wednesday
21 November 2007 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr D.G. Rickard (Chairman)
Cllrs: N.K Cast C.D. Wild
P.J. Colfox Ms S.J. Williams
Ms R.C. Kayes

Also present: Cllrs C.M. Ray and Mrs M.J. Ray.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no public speakers.

12. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G.J. Ackerman, Ms A.M. Grear and K.G. Wallace.

13. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 July 2007 were confirmed as a correct and true record and signed by the Chairman.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C.D. Wild declared a personal interest as a member of the Bridport Environment Group as the Group was mentioned in items on this agenda.

Councillor P.J. Colfox declared a personal interest as a member of Dorset Wildlife Trust should any related issues be raised at the meeting.

15. CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACT - UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 1847.

The Chairman referred members to his report included as an appendix to this item. He took members through his proposals, which he hoped would be recommended to Council to agree as a statement of this Council's intent to use its powers under the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act. The proposals included the establishment of a members' working group.

The proposals in the report were supported by the Committee and it was agreed that the proposed working group should also look at related issues such as the Council signing up to the Nottingham Declaration and the Town Council's role in responding to any environmental emergencies such as possible flooding.

It was also agreed that consideration should be given to allocating a budget to this Committee to support its work. This would be considered as part of the preparation

of next year's budget. There was also a need to review the number of meetings of this Committee required for next year in view of its likely workload.

RECOMMEND:

- 1) that the Council will adopt a Climate Change Policy which commits the Council to reduce its Carbon Footprint.
- 2) that the Direction Statement of the Town Plan be re-written to include an overarching commitment to reduce the carbon footprint of the entire town.
- 3) that the Council include an appraisal of the effects of global warming in future plans.
- 4) that a member level working group be established and include within its remit:
 - to bring forward distinct projects for inclusion in the Town Plan (to be reported to the Best Value and Town Plan Sub Committee in December).
 - to look at the implications of becoming a Transition Town.

the membership and full terms of reference of the Group to be agreed by the Council. The Group to meet once prior to the Best Value and Town Plan Sub Committee in December and, in this municipal year, on two further occasions prior to the next meeting of this Committee (dates to be confirmed).

- 5) that neighbouring parishes, community groups and Non Governmental Organisations be invited to engage in the wider process.
- 6) that this Committee monitor and report to Council on progress.

16. OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION TASK FORCE

Councillors considered the minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces and Recreation Task Force held on 20 September 2006.

Councillor C. D. Wild, Chairman of the Group, presented the minutes and updated members on the New Zealand site. He also reported that the Countryside Rangers were to hold a Volunteer Day at the Bothenhampton Nature Reserve on 9 December starting at 10.30 am.

RESOLVED: that the minutes be received, the actions identified by the Task Force be endorsed and the Finance and General Purposes Committee be asked to agree that the Town Council become a member of Fields in Trust (formerly known as the National Playing Fields Association).

17. TOWN PLAN – REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL WELLBEING SECTIONS

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 1848.

It was agreed that the Working Group proposed under the previous agenda item should look at the Committee's schemes within the Town Plan.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted and the environmental and social wellbeing schemes and priorities within the Town Plan be reviewed by the Working Group recommended under the previous agenda item. Any recommendations to be considered by the Best Value and Town Plan Sub Committee in December prior to decisions on schemes being taken by the Finance and General Purposes Committee in January.

18. REVIEW OF DAY CENTRE SERVICES AND CHANGES TO RESPITE CARE

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 1849.

The proposed review of Day Centre Services and the County Council's changes to respite care at Sydney Gale House were considered.

In discussion, it was agreed that the Town Council should respond to the review of Day Centre Services. There were concerns that if there were reductions in resources in Chancery House, then they would not be able to cope with the additional people coming to the Centre if the Beaminster Centre closed, as was being recommended.

In respect of the changes to respite care, it was felt that the County Council should provide evidence to demonstrate that the current bed provision at Sydney Gale House was underused as it was understood that people were currently unable to find bed space at the Centre. It was also a concern that people would be asked to travel to Weymouth, which would be difficult for many families.

RECOMMEND: that the Town Clerk make representations to the County Council setting out the Town Council's concerns in respect of the review of Day Centre Services and the changes to respite care as set out above.

19. UPDATE ON ONGOING SCHEMES

(a) Pilot Environmental Audit: Mountfield

The Town Surveyor updated the Committee on the ongoing work including the zoning of the building. He said that he was seeking advice from specialist heating engineers on the best schemes.

He had also attended a presentation on eco-building, which he suggested could also be presented to a future Council meeting, if members wished.

(b) Bridport Heritage Orchard Site

(c) New Zealand Site

The Town Surveyor reported that he was working with the community groups on management plans for both sites. It was also reported that he and the Leader of the Council had attended a presentation on the BBC/Big Lottery Breathing Spaces Grants Scheme and both sites looked to be suitable for bids. Bids were therefore being prepared in time for the January deadline.

He added that Magna Housing were happy to be a supporting partner of the Community Orchard bid.

20. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

PACT - Councillor Ms R.C. Kayes reported back on the recent meeting of PACT. The possibility of the Town Council supporting a dedicated phone line to record incidents of crime was reported. It was asked that this be investigated by the Town Clerk.

The need for increased coverage of neighbourhood watch schemes and use of acceptable behaviour contracts were also mentioned.

BLAST - Councillor Ms R.C. Kayes reported that a very positive meeting had been held with the County Council and the possibility of a Skills Centre was looking very encouraging.

Environment Group - Councillor C.D. Wild reported on a very well attended meeting of the Group, which received presentations on scallop dredging, and Transition Towns. There was a lot of activity being undertaken on environmental initiatives by different groups and people in the town. The Group was therefore looking to produce a Directory of all the groups active in the town.

21. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Surveyor reported that he and the Town Clerk had attended a meeting with Magna Housing. He had raised ten separate open spaces where it was hoped that the Town Council could reach agreement for either land transfers or support for wider community use. It was a very positive meeting and he would be bringing a report to members in due course once he had confirmation of Magna's position.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 9 April 2008