

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday
23 January 2013 at 7.00 p.m.

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

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the Public Forum.

35. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr E.T. Colfox.

36. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 November 2012 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

38. BRIDPORT COHOUSING

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2641.

Monica King, Charles Couzens and Lucy Rowland from Bridport Cohousing made a presentation on their proposals for a cohousing project on land to the west of Bridport Hospital. They explained the principles behind the project, which was to create an affordable cohousing neighbourhood, with 30 homes, ranging from 1 bed flats to 4 bed houses, for buying, renting and shared ownership. The scheme had a strong focus on sustainability - high insulation levels and eco-friendly heating systems, a 1 acre community allotment and community transport. The facilities such as the meeting rooms and market garden could be shared with the local community. They were undertaking widespread consultation on the proposals and were hoping to submit the outline planning application in the Spring of this year.

Members asked questions and welcomed the presentation. However, it was emphasised that they were unable to comment on the detail of the design and other planning matters, as the Town Council would be formally consulted on these matters when the planning application was submitted. It was hoped though that the Town Council would be kept informed of the development of the scheme.

The Cohousing representatives were thanked for the presentation.

RESOLVED: that the proposals for the Bridport Cohousing project be noted and the Town Council receive further updates as the project is developed.

39. ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

The Town Clerk reported that it was hoped very soon to convene the members' group to look at the findings of the audit.

It was also reported that Transition Town Bridport had the use of a thermal imaging camera, which could be used to assess energy loss in buildings and this could be useful in looking at the Council's buildings.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

40. COMMUNITY JUSTICE PANELS

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2642.

It was reported that the meeting with Oliver Letwin, to discuss the future roll out of the panels, was scheduled for 5 April and the meeting with the Police Commissioner was in the process of being arranged.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

41. WELFARE ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2643.

Members discussed the changes to the social fund, which were being implemented as part of the Welfare Reform Act 2012. Dorset County Council was to introduce a Welfare Assistance Scheme, to operate on a pilot basis from April 2013.

Members commented that it was important for this Committee to monitor developments and the impact of the changes on people in Bridport. It was also felt that the Inter Agency Forum (comprising local advice and support agencies) should meet again to consider the implications in detail, the local support network that was available and identify where there could be gaps in the provision of support. It was hoped that the County Council would be able to attend that meeting, to provide more information on this scheme. It was suggested that the meeting should be at the end of February/early March.

RESOLVED: that the proposals be considered further at a meeting of the Inter Agency Forum.

42. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2644.

The Town Clerk reported that BLAP was in the process of arranging a meeting of local councils, to assess the level of support for designating a wider neighbourhood plan area.

It was also reported that, nationally, the first Neighbourhood Plan to get to the referendum stage was the Upper Eden Neighbourhood Plan and copies of that plan would be available for members.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

43. RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES - DEFIBRILLATOR

The Town Clerk reported that he had been contacted by the Masons, who were offering to provide a defibrillator and would like to discuss with the Town Council where it should be placed.

Members welcomed the offer and felt that it should be placed in the best location in the town centre, around Bucky Doo Square, so that it was easily accessible. It was also asked if there could be further information, in due course, on the maintenance and training needs for the machine.

RESOLVED: that the donation of the defibrillator by the Masons be accepted and the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to agree the location and report back on the maintenance and training needs for the machine.

44. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

The following reports were received:

Councillor Ms R.C. Kayes reported on the successful launch of the Bridport Community Land Trust on 17 January in the Town Hall.

Councillor D.G. Rickard had reported earlier on Transition Town Bridport.

Councillor Ms A-M.A. Vincent reported on the launch meeting for Skills Training Bridport, to be held on 24 January in the Town Hall. She also referred to the Citizens' Advice Bureau, which was considering the implications of the changes to the welfare system.

Councillor Ms R.C. Kayes reminded members of the Spirit of Bridport Community Event on 2 February.

The updates were noted.

45. FUTURE REPORTS

It was asked if a report could be submitted to a future meeting on the implications of the changes in clinical commissioning and health care. It was felt that it would be useful to have an overview of the changes and how they were being applied in Bridport.

46. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

The meeting closed at **8.10 p.m.**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 20 March 2013