

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE  
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday  
25 June 2008 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Cllrs:	N.K Cast	K.G. Wallace (until 7.10pm)
	Ms R.C. Kayes	C.D. Wild
	Ms F.K. Mckenzie	Ms S.J. Williams
	D.G. Rickard	

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED: that Cllr D.G. Rickard be elected Chairman of the Committee for the municipal year 2008/2009.

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 2008/2009.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no speakers in the public forum.

**3. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

**4. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 April 2008 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr C.D. Wild declared a personal interest in minute no.8 as an officer of the Bridport Environment Group, which would be making a response on the Marine Bill.

**6. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY AWARENESS WEEK**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 1915.

RESOLVED: that the arrangements for the Climate Change and Energy Awareness Week be noted.

## **7. HOME WATCH - PROPOSALS FOR BRIDPORT**

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 1916.

The Committee felt that the Town Council should be invited to nominate a representative on the Home Watch Association.

RESOLVED: that bearing in mind the comments made at the full Council meeting, no further comments be made in response to the Home Watch proposal and the draft Constitution for a Bridport Home Watch Association be endorsed subject to the Town Council being invited to consider whether to nominate a representative on the Association.

## **8. DRAFT MARINE BILL**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 1917.

The following comments were agreed in response to the Bill:

- support for the overall purpose and aims of the Bill.
- welcome the proposals to establish marine conservation zones. This had particular relevance as the Environment Secretary has just agreed to part of Lyme Bay being a protected area.
- the proposal to establish a coastal route around Britain was welcomed, although sufficient resources needed to be made available to the access authorities, who would be required to maintain the routes. In establishing these routes, there would need to be liaison with local representative bodies and stakeholders, such as the Dorset Coastal Forum.
- the issue of accountability and the need to ensure a role for local government and community representatives should be addressed in the establishment of the new Marine Management Organisation.

RESOLVED: that the comments set out above be approved as this Council's response to the draft Marine Bill.

## **9. DORSET WASTE STRATEGY**

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 1918.

The Committee felt that the following issues should be included within the criteria for the review:

- the need to increase the number of items that can be recycled. This should include plastics.
- the recycling of food waste.
- the support and encouragement that can be given to local community groups working in recycling and re-use.

- the role that education can play in encouraging recycling.

Finally it was felt that the real issue was managing the use of resources to avoid waste. The strategy should be about managing existing resources, and avoiding waste through better re-use and recycling.

RESOLVED: that the comments set out above be approved as this Council's response to the criteria for the Waste Strategy Review.

## **10. FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 1919.

The Committee noted that Bridport remained an area where further action was needed to sustain the current scale of flood risk. Members wished to be kept informed of progress in the implementation of the action plan.

It was also agreed that it was necessary to appoint a Flood Warden who would be actively involved in working with the Environment Agency to identify risks.

Members discussed the Flood Day, to be held in Dorchester on 4 July.

RESOLVED: that the above comments be agreed in response to the Environment Agency's action plan for this area and Councillor Keith Cast be nominated to attend the Flood Day on 4 July.

## **11. WEST DORSET HOUSING STRATEGY 2008-2012**

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 1920.

In discussion of the Strategy, members made the following comments:

- support the primary aim of the strategy to maximise affordable housing provision. However, this objective needed to be strongly pursued at all levels and be at the forefront of discussions with developers.
- the District Council should make its expectations on affordable housing provision clear to developers and there should be a policy on negotiating with developers to ensure achievement of the quota targets.
- thresholds needed to be reduced to 9 units (rather than 15) or even less for areas such as Bridport, given the nature of the small sites available for development.
- a higher quota should be set above that threshold. A figure of 50% should be achievable.
- members supported the general comments made by BLAP.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to respond to the Strategy in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, taking into account the comments set out above.

**12. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT UPDATE**

The Town Clerk updated the Committee on the Act.

In discussion, it was noted that the Town Council had made representations about the need to ensure that parish and town councils were fully involved in the consultation process on proposals brought forward under the Act. It was agreed that the County and District Councils should be asked to confirm how they were planning to respond to the Act.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk write to both the County and District Councils asking how they were planning to take advantage of the new power under the Act, to bring forward proposals to improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of the area.

**13. GREEN WALK FUNDING OPTIONS**

The Town Clerk reported for information and said that the current position of the Green Walk and options for improvements would be considered at the Open Space and Recreation Task Force.

This was noted.

**14. NEW MOBILE PHONE MAST**

The Town Clerk reported for information that Vodafone had given notice that it wished to install a new mobile phone mast on a site at Old Hospital Field, Park Road, Allington.

The Committee agreed that, as the Town Council would be formally consulted as part of the planning application process, it would not be appropriate to comment at this stage. Members did ask however that the company be encouraged to undertake consultation with people living in the immediate vicinity of the site.

**15. NOTTINGHAM DECLARATION - UPDATE**

The Town Clerk reported for information that the Town Council would formally sign the declaration on 2 July at the Energy Day.

**16. UPDATE ON ONGOING SCHEMES**

Bridport Heritage Orchard - following approval of the Breathing Spaces bid, a meeting was to be held of interested people to discuss a plan of action for the site.

New Zealand Site - the Breathing Spaces lottery bid for this site, submitted by the Environment Group, had also been successful. Cllr C.D. Wild was thanked for all his work on this bid and on the Community Orchard bid.

Methodist Chapel - the District Council was looking to commission a feasibility study and to bring interested people together to consider the options for the community use of the building.

The updates were noted.

**17. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

BLAST - Cllr Ms R.C. Kayes and Cllr C.D. Wild updated the Committee. A consultant had been appointed to take the skills centre project forward and there were a number of options being looked at. The project was moving fast and looking very positive.

PACT - Cllr Ms R.C. Kayes stated that a number of issues had been raised at the last meeting. This included highways and traffic in the town, which she had discussed with the Town Surveyor.

The update reports were noted.

**18. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF WORKING GROUPS**

The proposed terms of reference for the Committee's Social Inclusion and Environment working groups were circulated at the meeting and generally supported. However, it was felt that there should be a separate working group for wellbeing issues and that this should be looked at prior to the terms of reference being recommended for approval.

RESOLVED: that the proposed terms of reference of the Social Inclusion and Environment Working Groups be recommended to Council for approval subject to separate terms of reference being produced for a Wellbeing working group.

**19. CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items raised.

**20. DOCUMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE**

The following documents, ENCL. 1921, were laid on the table for inspection by Town Councillors:

1. Fields In Trust – Annual Review 2007.
2. Fields In Trust – Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2007

The meeting closed at **8.40 p.m.**

**The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 3 September 2008**