

At a MEETING of the **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, Bridport on Tuesday 26 November 2013 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs M.J. Ray – Town Mayor (in the Chair)

G.J.	Ackerman	D.G.	Rickard
Miss S.A.	Brown	Ms G.E.	Summers
E.T.	Colfox	D.R.	Tett
Ms R.C.	Kayes	Ms A-M.A.	Vincent
Ms G.E.	Massey	Ms S.J.	Williams
C.M.	Ray		

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Chris Cherry from the West Bay Forum spoke in support of the recommendation in the Plans Committee minutes of 28 October, asking that additional measures regarding the priority turning to the harbour and a crossing adjacent to St John's Church and Harbour Stores, also be considered at the same time as the removal of the pinch point.

Mrs Ann Guppy of West Bay Forum spoke regarding the power boat racing event in West Bay. A number of local residents and businesses had raised concerns, mainly about the lack of information when the event was held this year and the lack of clarity about why the event was being held. She stressed that they were not saying that the event should not go ahead, but that they would like more information.

Mr Nick Thornley, West Dorset District Council Economy, Leisure and Tourism Manager and James Radcliffe, Harbour Master, accompanied by one of the event organisers, spoke regarding the proposed power boat racing event. Mr Thornley stated that the District Council wanted to ensure that there was more information about next year's proposed event and it was sorry that, due to time constraints, it was not possible to consult when the first event was held earlier this year. Generally, the response to that event had been positive. The District Council was responding to a request from the organisers to be allowed to stage an event in 2014 and this had been supported at a meeting of Harbour users. It was felt that such an event did help to bring visitors into West Bay and support the local economy.

In response to questions from members, the following additional points were made:

- the event was at no cost to the District Council.
- the 2014 event would be slightly larger than this year, but would be in keeping with the area. The Organiser clarified that the racing would be for less than 2 hours a day on Saturday and Sunday, with a small amount of additional practice earlier in the day.
- the harbour would remain open.
- there were a limited number of boats able to take part.

- West Dorset District Council would be happy to provide more information for the West Bay Forum, both on the event and the management of the harbour.

The speakers were thanked for attending the meeting and the Chairman said that the Town Council would consider its comments on the power boat event, when it considered agenda item 6 (minute 46).

41. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr C.O. Michell.

42. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

44. STANDING ORDER 14 (b)

There were no questions pursuant to standing order 14(b).

45. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) PLANS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 30 September 2013 were presented by the Committee Vice-Chairman, Councillor Ms S.J. Williams.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 30 September 2013 be received.

(b) PLANS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 28 October 2013 were presented by the Committee Vice-Chairman, Councillor Ms S.J. Williams.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 28 October 2013 be received and the recommendation therein be adopted, as set out below: -

(Min 60/20) WEST BAY ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT UPDATE

Members commented on the need for evidence to be provided, to support the request for a crossing.

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that it be noted that the pinch point at West Bay was due to be removed and it be requested that additional measures, regarding the priority turning to the harbour and a crossing adjacent to St John's Church and Harbour Stores, also be considered at the same time.

(Minute 21e) GAS WORKS

This was a resolved item. However, the Town Clerk reported that the Plans Committee request (that following the gas works in West Allington, the pinch point not be replaced) had been referred to the County Council.

Dorset County Council had contacted the Town Council to ask for its views on a proposal to have a ghost island consisting of a painted area with no bollards or signs, in place of the existing arrangement. Bearing in mind that the works were coming to an end, it was necessary to respond quickly and members generally welcomed the proposal and thanked the County Council for its support.

(c) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 13 November 2013 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor D.G. Rickard.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 13 November 2013 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted, as set out below:

(Minute 36) DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE SHAPE OF SOCIAL CARE SERVICES IN BRIDPORT

It was noted that the County Council was to consider the options for the consultation process, at its Cabinet meeting on 4 December 2013. It was proposed that the consultation would run until March 2014 and be launched at an event in the Town Hall on 16 December. It was hoped that there would be a good attendance at that meeting.

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

(Minute 37) DRAFT JURASSIC COAST WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Committee, be given delegated authority to respond.

(Minute 39) SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that the opportunities available under the Sustainable Communities Act be noted and the public be invited to submit proposals for the Town Council to consider, within the criteria of the Act.

(Minute 42) DORSET POLICE ENQUIRY OFFICE - CHANGE OF PROVISION

Members discussed the comments in the minutes and added their concern at the proposed closure of the enquiry office. It was felt that the office should be open 5 days a week, ideally full time, or certainly for half a day. It was asked if a member of staff could do their work whilst also covering the enquiry desk, which would enable the service to remain open. It was felt that other options should be looked at, to enable this important service to be retained.

It was noted that the closure would create difficulties for people having to present documents and this would include cyclists, who may be asked to bring their bicycle to show that it was road worthy, if they had been stopped by the police. If the enquiry office was closed, would they have to go to Weymouth or Bournemouth?

The recommendation in the report was supported, with the additional comments above. It was therefore:

RESOLVED: that the proposals in respect of police enquiry provision be noted and in response, the Town Council express its concern and ask that other options be looked at, to retain the service in Bridport. The response to be drafted by the Town Clerk, taking into account the comments above and in the Committee minutes.

(d) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 20 November 2013 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor C.M. Ray.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 20 November 2013 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted, as set out below: -

(Minute 73) FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2013/2014 – 2nd REVISION

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that the 2nd revision of the estimates for the year 2013/2014 be approved.

(Minute 77) LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE CONSERVATION PLAN

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Committee, be given delegated authority to respond.

(Minute 78) YOUTH COUNCIL WORKING GROUP AND ADVISERS

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that the Youth Council be invited to nominate up to 4 young people to be Youth Advisers to the Town Council and the Town Council be asked to ratify the appointments when the nominations were made and subject to further information on the working arrangements and examples from similar schemes elsewhere.

(Minute 80) STANDARDS AND CODE OF CONDUCT – NEW ARRANGEMENTS

Members expressed their concern at the changes which had been introduced and asked that the arrangements to be introduced by the Town Council be looked at by the Town Clerk, in consultation with a small working group of members.

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that after consideration by a Working Group of members, the Town Clerk report back on the arrangements to be put in place, to enable the Town Council to consider any cases referred back to it, under the new process for handling complaints against councillors, under the Code of Conduct.

(Minute 86) HEALTH AND SAFETY AND STAFF HANDBOOK ADOPTION

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: (a) that the health and safety policy/employee health and safety handbook and staff handbook be adopted by the Council, subject to consultation with staff and the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to make any amendments.

(b) that the general risk assessment and prioritised action plan be reported to the Best Value, Scrutiny & Town Plan Sub Committee, for detailed consideration.

(c) that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to revise contracts of employment, to ensure they reflect the latest legal position, in accordance with the advice received and in consultation with staff.

(Minute 87) OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATIVES

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that Cllr Ms S.J. Williams be appointed to the Hat Festival Committee and that appointments to the Heritage Forum and West Bay Forum be considered further and reported back.

(Minute 89) STANDING FOR ELECTION IN THE UK CONSULTATION

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Committee, be given delegated authority to respond.

(Minute 90) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FUNDING

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

46. POWER BOAT RACING IN WEST BAY 2014 - PRESENTATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2762.

RESOLVED: that following the presentation in the Public Forum, the proposed event in 2014 be broadly supported, subject to full consultation with the local community and the West Bay Forum and that there be further consultation, prior to any future events.

47. THE MAYOR'S BIG CLEAN UP

The Town Mayor reported on proposals being drawn up for a town "clean up", as part of the national "Big Tidy Up". More information will be issued, when the arrangements were confirmed.

48. COMMUNICATIONS

The Town Mayor reported her list of engagements, ENCL: 2761.

The Leader of the Council reported on the arrangements for members to have access to the plans for the Broomhills application, which would be available on the morning of 28 November in the Mountfield meeting room.

The Town Clerk reported on the successful outcome of the recent VAT Inspection and he was joined by all members in thanking Paul Fuszard, Finance and Office Manager, for all his work in ensuring such a good outcome.

The Town Clerk reminded members of the Christmas Festival, to be held on the evening of 4 December and that the "heritage style" street lighting was being installed in the town centre, allowing completion before the Festival.

The meeting closed at **8.35 p.m.**

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 28 January 2014