

At a MEETING of the **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, Bridport on Tuesday 26 June 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT Cllr D.G. Rickard – Town Mayor (in the Chair)

Cllr G.J. Ackerman	C.O. Michell
P.J. Colfox (from 7.08pm)	C.M. Ray
Ms R.C. Kayes	Mrs M.J. Ray
Ms G.E. Massey	Ms A-M.A. Vincent
	Ms S.J. Williams

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

15. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllrs: E.T. Colfox, Ms L.L. Glover, D.R. Tett and K.G. Wallace.

16. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

The Town Mayor mentioned the reference in the minutes to his charities for the year. Following the meeting, the Bridport Community Orchard Group had thanked him for selecting the Community Allotment but it did not currently need any funding assistance. He would therefore be selecting a replacement charity for his mayoral year, in addition to those he had previously selected.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All the previously recorded interests declared under this item in the Committee minutes were noted.

Cllr P.J. Colfox stated that he would declare a personal interest in any discussion of site specific issues on the Local Plan or affordable housing, should this be raised at the meeting.

Cllr Ms R.C. Kayes stated that she was a director of Enterprise St Michael's and would have a personal interest in any discussion of the South West Quadrant site. However, the Town Council was not being asked to take any decisions on this matter at this meeting.

18. STANDING ORDER 14 (b)

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

19. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) PLANS COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 11 June 2012 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Ms S.J. Williams.

Under the minutes, it had been reported that the St Michaels Trading Estate applications were to be considered by the District Council's Development Control Committee on Thursday 21 June. The Town Mayor reported that the Town Council had issued a press release from the Chair of the Plans Committee, expressing concern at the outcome of that meeting. This matter would be considered further at the Town Council's Plans Committee meeting on 2 July.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 11 June 2012 be received and the recommendation therein be adopted as set out below: -

(Min no14) LOCAL WORKS – SUPPORT FOR PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL ON PLANNING APPEAL RIGHTS FOR LOCAL COUNCILS

It was noted that the Bill had failed to complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the Parliamentary session. This meant that the Bill would make no further progress.

Members felt that they would still like to show support for the intention of the Bill, in the hope that a similar Bill might be raised again.

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

RESOLVED: that the Private Members' Bill - Planning Applications (Appeals by Town and Parish Councils) - be supported.

(b) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13 June 2012 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 13 June 2012 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted as set out below: -

(Minute 8) APPOINTMENTS & REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL

All members would be reminded that there were still some vacancies on outside bodies and be asked to contact the Town Clerk, if they wished to serve on any of these bodies.

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

- RESOLVED: (1) that the appointments and representatives on outside bodies and cheque signatories for 2012/13 be approved, as set out in the minutes,
- (2) that the reporting arrangements be approved, as set out in the Appendix to the report,
- (3) that the Town Clerk issue advice to all members on their duties and responsibilities on outside bodies.

(Minute 9) ANNUAL ACCOUNTS – YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2012

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

- RESOLVED: that the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2012 be approved.

(Minute 17) LOCALISING SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL TAX

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

- RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to respond to this consultation, highlighting the concerns regarding the implications of a potential reduction in the Council Tax base.

(Minute 20) LOCALISM ACT – NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

It was noted that this matter was subject to a separate report on this agenda and the resolution is shown under minute no. 21.

- RESOLVED: that this matter be considered and determined under agenda item 7 of this agenda (minute no 21).

(c) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 6 June 2012 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Ms R.C. Kayes.

The Committee Chairman provided an update on the concerns reported at the Committee regarding the outcome of the County Health Scrutiny consideration of the proposals for Bridport Community Hospital.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 6 June 2012 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted as set out below:

(Minute 9) AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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

RESOLVED: that concerns regarding schemes that could allow affordable homes to be bought and subsequently sold on the open market, with the consequent impact on the level of affordable housing, be raised with Oliver Letwin MP.

(Minute 14) CONSULTATION ON DAY SERVICES AND VOCATIONAL SERVICE PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

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

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority (in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and Leader of the Council) to agree a response to the County Council consultation on the future development of day and vocational services.

20. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2011/2012

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2565.

The report included Sections 1, 2 and 4 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2012. Section 4 was included for information and the Town Clerk outlined the content of Sections 1 and 2.

The recommendation was moved and seconded, put to the vote and declared to be carried. It was therefore:

RESOLVED: that Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2012 - the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement - be approved for submission to the External Auditor.

21. CODE OF CONDUCT – ADOPTION OF NEW CODE

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2566.

The Town Clerk explained the background the proposal to adopt a new Code of Conduct, as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and in line with the advice from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). He highlighted the need for members to review their registration of interests, in the light of the new legal requirements on the registration of pecuniary interests, as in Appendix A to the new Code. Members also noted that the registration requirements applied to members “and their spouse or civil partner or person that they live with as if they were a spouse or civil partner”. Members were required to complete new

registration forms within 28 days from the new Code taking effect and it was understood that these forms would come from the District Council.

The Town Clerk would ensure that all members received advice and guidance on the changes.

RESOLVED: that the National Association of Local Council's template, as set out in the NALC Legal Briefing L09-12 circulated with the agenda be adopted as the Town Council's new Code of Conduct, to take effect on 1 July 2012.

(Cllr P.J. Colfox asked for his vote against this resolution to be recorded).

22. DRAFT LOCAL PLAN – UPDATE FROM LOCAL PLAN WORKING GROUP AND PROCESS TO APPROVE RESPONSE

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2567.

RESOLVED: that the process to respond to the draft Local Plan and the work of the Local Plan Working Group be noted and endorsed and a Special Council meeting be held later in July, to approve the final response.

23. COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were reported for information:

- (1) The Town Mayor reported his list of engagements, ENCL: 2568 and informed members that he would be writing a letter of thanks to the Mayor of Srebrenica, Bosnia, following the recent visit by young people to Bridport and the successful event held at the Town Hall.

With reference to his list of engagements, the Mayor reported that he had attended the lighting of the jubilee beacon at Eype on 4 June and the Deputy Mayor had attended the lighting of the beacon on that date at Allington. Also the West Dorset Scouts AGM, that he was due to attend on 21 June, had been cancelled.

- (2) The Town Clerk updated members on arrangements for the Olympic torch relay to come through Bridport on Thursday 12 July 2012.

The meeting closed at **7.42 p.m.**

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 18 September 2012