

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday
8 June 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Dave Rickard (Chairman from item 2)

Kelvin Clayton	Julian Jones
Sarah Horniman	Ros Kayes
Barry Irvine	Anne Rickard

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: that Cllr Dave Rickard be elected Chairman of the Committee for the municipal year 2016/2017.

Councillor Dave Rickard in the Chair

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: that Cllr Kelvin Clayton be elected Vice Chairman of the Committee for the municipal year 2016/17.

PUBLIC FORUM

Ros Copson from HUGS spoke regarding the reported increase in mental health treatment in West Dorset and the difference with the rest of Dorset, since the changes to local provision in 2013. She emphasised the need for increased funding and support for mental health services in this area.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Jeremy Brodie, Eddie Colfox and Sarah Williams (ex officio).

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 March 2016 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORKING GROUPS

The Town Clerk reminded members of the working arrangements for the Committee and its Working Groups.

Members felt that transport issues should continue to come to this Committee, after consideration by the Highways and Transportation Working Group. Highways issues would go to the Planning Committee.

RECOMMEND: that transport matters continue to be reported to this Committee.

7. DCC PUBLIC TRANSPORT SUBSIDY CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3091.

Members discussed the ongoing work looking into the feasibility of community bus schemes. Two stakeholder meetings had been held and there was a need for a further meeting to take this work forward.

In terms of the current consultation, the following comments were made:

- The County Council still had a responsibility for bus transport and even if the community was to look at running new services, the County Council needed to provide the necessary expertise and backup. They needed to provide the professional support.
- It was important to continue to look at alternative ways to deliver services locally, but there was a need for properly funded community support.
- There should be discussion with WATAG to see what concerns they had and ensure these were also reflected in the Council's response.
- Other issues, such as concessionary pass holders making a voluntary contribution, also needed to be looked at.
- The County Council should lobby Government to enable Dorset to have transport authority powers like London and that there needed to be more fairness in the distribution of funding.

RECOMMEND: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to respond to the consultation to include the comments above and following discussion with WATAG.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD JUSTICE PANELS

The Town Clerk and the Chairman reported on the successful survey of participants and the continued roll out of the project.

RESOLVED: that the latest position on the Neighbourhood Justice Panels' project be noted.

9. DORSET COMMUNITY HUB

It was reported that the County Council was generally looking at the co-location of its services. Funding was in place for the community hub and County Councillor Jill Haynes was to speak on this issue at the CAB AGM. It was asked if the County Council could be approached for the latest update on the project.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

10. DORSET COAST FORUM

It was reported that the Dorset Coast Forum was to submit a composite Dorset-wide bid to the Coastal Communities Fund under the theme 'connecting and growing coastal communities'. This will include relevant projects from the Bridport and West Bay Economic Plan and the ones to be taken forward within the bid are new cycle routes connecting West Bay and a new Heritage Trail.

The local Coastal Community Team has agreed that the best local project to go forward from the Economic Plan will be the restoration and conversion of the Methodist Church at West Bay, turning it into an all-weather visitor interpretation centre.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

11. CLINICAL SERVICES REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3092.

Cllr Ros Kayes updated on discussions at the County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee, where it was generally agreed that there was a need for a lot more consultation on the Clinical Services review.

There was a discussion about the main points coming out of the review and possible implications for this area. This included:

- Possible changes to the emergency unit provision between Dorset County Hospital, Bournemouth and Poole.
- Possible changes to maternity and paediatric services, including possibly in Dorchester.
- Proposed decrease in community hospitals, although it was understood that Bridport Hospital was not at risk.
- In terms of mental health provision, there was a concern that there would not be enough community health staff and there could be further changes to the number of units in the area.
- Overall the proposals could have a major impact for rural areas.
- The proposals also did not take account of future reductions planned in public transport.

It was reported that there was due to be consultation on the proposals in September.

RECOMMEND: to note the current position on the review.

12. DRAFT MINERALS SITES PLAN & WASTE PLAN UPDATE

The Chairman said he would look at the waste plan, to see if it required a response. It was understood that the Draft minerals sites plan did not affect the Bridport area.

RECOMMEND: that the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, be given delegated authority to respond to the consultation on the waste plan update.

13. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Bridport Arts Centre - Cllr Barry Irvine reported that listed building consent had been granted for the redevelopment works to start. The works would take place over the summer and it was hoped to reopen in September, although there would still be a programme during June and July.

Citizens' Advice Bureau – Cllr Barry Irvine reported that they were still awaiting progress on the lease from Wessex Water. The AGM was to be on 18 July in the Town Hall at 7.30pm.

Food Festival – Cllr Anne Rickard reported that the Festival was going ahead as planned.

14. CAB – LOCAL ADVICE NETWORK

Members discussed the increase in street sleepers and homelessness, which was one of the issues discussed at the last Local Advice Network meeting.

RESOLVED: that the issue of homelessness be on the next agenda of this Committee.

15. YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported on the project to safeguard the Youth Centre, which was due to transfer to the new Trust by 1 September.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

16. RIGHTS RESPECTING UPDATE

The Chairman said that he was hoping to discuss this with the schools youth council at its next meeting on 15 June.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and a report be included at the next meeting.

17. PENSION FUND ETHICAL INVESTMENTS

The Town Clerk reported the response from Dorset County Council. It was questioned what further action could be taken at this stage.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

18. UPDATE ON OTHER ONGOING ISSUES / CORRESPONDENCE

West Bay Signage - Cllr Sarah Horniman expressed concern that the tape on the dog signs was being removed and it was asked if the District Council could use permanent means to cover up the relevant part of the signs that indicated dogs could be exercised under the cliff. The Chairman said that he would take this up with the District Council.

The meeting closed at **9.05 p.m.**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 7 September 2016