

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday 11 January
2017 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Dave Rickard (Chairman)

Jeremy Brodie Sarah Horniman
Kelvin Clayton Julian Jones
Eddie Colfox Anne Rickard

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr James Stone from Beyond Events spoke about the West Bay Triathlon he was trying to arrange.

The Town Clerk stated that he and the Town Surveyor had met with James to discuss the event and the other events he was proposing to hold in Bridport. However, for the Triathlon it was necessary to get the approval of the District Council, as they owned the Harbour and the Car Parks.

46. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Barry Irvine and Ros Kayes.

47. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 November 2016 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

49. “IMPROVING DORSET’S HEALTH CARE” NHS CONSULTATION

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3158.

All members had received a copy of the Consultation document. At the meeting, copies of publicity issued by the Dorset Health Campaign and “Keep Our NHS Public Dorset” were circulated.

It was reported that there was to be a public meeting in the Town Hall on 8 February. It was felt that the full Council should agree the principles of its reply and then the detail could be confirmed at a working group of members after 8 February and before the consultation closing date on 28 February.

Members made the following initial comments:

- Travel times for patients were a major concern, if services were relocated to the east of the County, as proposed, particularly bearing in mind the poor public

transport links.

- There would also be pressure on emergency response times, if there was just one major A&E, located in the east of the County.
- There were concerns about the potential pressure on Bridport Hospital. Any proposed loss of beds at the Community Hospital was a concern.
- It was felt that more priority could have been given to rural needs, bearing in mind such factors as isolation, lack of transport etc.

These were just initial comments and it was agreed that a more detailed response would be produced.

RECOMMEND: that the Council agree the key issues to be addressed in the Town Council's response to the NHS Consultation "Improving Dorset's Healthcare" and the final detailed response be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with a working group of members.

50. OPEN SPACES WORKING GROUP – AUDIT OF PLAY AREAS

Councillors considered the notes of the Working Group meeting, ENCL: 3157.

It was asked if the consideration of a Trim Trail could be added to the consultation programme/plan.

It was felt that it would be helpful for the proposed consultation, to have a map showing all the play areas

This was to be the subject of the Open Public Forum at the next Council meeting and the consultation could also feature as part of the Community Fair on 4 February.

RECOMMEND:

1. that a public consultation exercise be undertaken, to see what people would like to see at all play areas.
2. that, following the consultation, a ten year replacement/maintenance Plan be brought forward, with proposals for all the sites.

51. PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS (related to dogs) CONSULTATION

Members considered the consultation and felt that it was not necessary to comment on the specific issues of detail. However, in terms of the general policy issues, the following comments were made:

- How will the Orders be enforced and will there be more funding to support the dog warden service?
- Appropriate signage was important, especially in West Bay, making it clear to avoid the area under the cliffs.

RECOMMEND: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to make a general response, taking account of the comments above and in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee.

52. PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS (related to anti-social drinking, aggressive begging and feeding of gulls) CONSULTATION

Members commented on the need to ensure enforcement was in place to support the Orders and it was felt, in particular, that the non-feeding of gulls would be difficult to enforce. Other methods to deter people from feeding the gulls, such as information on food wrappers, should be looked at.

RECOMMEND: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to make a general response taking account of the comments above and in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee.

53. GREEN FORTNIGHT

The Town Clerk reported that the Green Fortnight, hosted by Transition Town Bridport, was to run from 24 March to 9 April 2017.

It was commented that as part of the Town Council's support for the event, the Town Hall could be made available and the Town Council, at the next meeting of this Committee, would be asked to reaffirm its commitment to reducing its carbon emissions. The Town Hall Clock would also be turned green for the duration of the event.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and the Town Council supports the Green Fortnight.

54. CONCESSIONARY PASSES CONSULTATION

The Town Clerk reported the WATAG response to the consultation. Members generally supported that response, in particular supporting the proposal to consider a nominal flat rate fare to allow discounted, as opposed to free, travel. It was felt that this would do more to support and maintain subsidised services.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to respond to the consultation, supporting the comments made by WATAG.

55. ASKER MEADOWS USAGE – UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported that work was ongoing into the Local Nature Reserve designation of Asker Meadows. The local Asker Meadows Steering Group was looking at a management plan and in due course this would be brought forward for members to consider.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

56. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

The following updates were reported:

Youth Centre – Cllr Kelvin Clayton reported on the latest position on the Youth Centre Trust and in particular the push for members to join the 100 club, to support the Youth Club.

Arts Centre – Cllr Barry Irvine had provided a written report, which the Town Clerk read and which mentioned the latest position on new staff, an application being made to the Theatres Trust for work on windows and a consultation with local young people, to better understand barriers to engagement.

Citizens' Advice Bureau - Cllr Barry Irvine had also provided a written update stating that Wessex Water was due to start building work at the end of January/ beginning of February. A training course for volunteers was to start in February and they have funding for a 3 day a week post for a Benefits Expert.

57. FUTURE REPORTS

There were no issues raised.

58. CORRESPONDENCE AND UPDATES

The Committee considered the following updates:

- West Bay Flood Prevention Options Response – the response had been submitted and there would be further consultation as the options were developed.
- Rights Respecting – there was to be a follow up meeting for people who had expressed an interest in being involved. That meeting was to be on 22 January.
- Coastal Community Fund Applications – the results on the recent applications were expected in March/April.
- Bus Feasibility Study – the TAS Partnership had been appointed to undertake this work and was due to complete the study by March/April.
- Communities Living Sustainably Bridport's Entrepreneurial Economy Work Shop - a report had been produced of this event, which would be sent to members of the Committee.

The meeting closed at **8.40 pm**.

The next meeting of this committee will be held on 15 March 2017