

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE  
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday 15 March at  
7.00p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Dave Rickard (Chairman)

Kelvin Clayton  
Julian Jones

Ros Kayes  
Anne Rickard

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Simon Williams - Hughes Unit Group Supporters - spoke on the Mental Health Consultation. Simon spoke about the local position, the increasing need for mental health services in the area and the potential impact of the consultation proposals for the local area.

#### **59. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Jeremy Brodie, Sarah Horniman and Barry Irvine.

#### **60. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 January 2017 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **62. MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION**

Members considered the consultation and made the following comments:

- The proposals seemed to favour the eastern side of the County, with the west of the County seeming to be more adversely affected.
- The proposed closure of the Linden Unit could have a significant impact.
- The changes did not seem to have taken into account the transport difficulties in this area. Also it was understood that, in cases of emergency need, people would no longer be taken to mental health units in police vehicles. It was questioned whether the ambulance service would be able to meet the need.
- It was asked if there would be a reduction in beds, specifically reserved for female patients.
- It was questioned whether the "front room" proposals would mean a loss of skilled trained staff and whether the "front room" proposals would meet local needs.

RECOMMEND: that the Council agree a response to the “Improving Mental Health Services in Dorset” consultation, taking account of the comments made by the Committee and the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to finalise the response, in consultation with the Committee Chairman.

### **63. ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3179.

The Committee noted the achievements as set out in the Appendix to the report and made the following suggestions, to be considered as part of the review of the Strategy:

- Inclusion of citizens’ rights and environmental responsibilities.
- Recycling of soft plastics – could this be looked at again, to see if the Town Council could help to promote and enable this recycling to take place. It was also asked if the Committee could have a report back on soft plastics – what facilities there were for recycling etc.
- In view of the success of the solar panels on Council buildings, could the option for land based solar panels also be looked at.
- Potential options for a local anaerobic digester to be looked at.

It was agreed that a press release should be issued after the Council meeting, to coincide with Green Fortnight, highlighting the actions taken by the Town Council, including appropriate data on solar panel generation etc.

RECOMMEND: that the Town Council reaffirms its commitment to its Climate Change Strategy and the Committee bring forward proposals for further initiatives and actions, including proposals to update the Strategy.

### **64. HOUSING WHITE PAPER**

It was noted that there was a consultation on the new White Paper and it was agreed that a summary of the proposals should be sent to all members for any comments.

RECOMMEND: that the update be noted and the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Committee Chairman, be given delegated authority to make any comments as part of the consultation on the White Paper.

**65. SKY LANTERN AND HELIUM BALLOON PROPOSED MOTION**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3180.

The motion set out in the agenda was moved by Councillor Julian Jones, seconded by Councillor Kelvin Clayton, supported by the Committee and it was agreed to:

RECOMMEND: that the following motion be approved:

“Many organisations have drawn attention to the problem of lantern and balloon releases which end up as litter on land or sea and pose a risk to livestock and marine animals which mistake balloons in particular for food. Balloons have been found ingested in endangered turtles, dolphins, whales and seabirds. Livestock have died after eating degraded lanterns, which are accidentally picked up by harvesting machinery and put into winter feeds.

Lanterns also pose a fire risk to crops in the summer months, to thatched roof properties, and are causing a number of false alarm call outs on the coast as people mistake them for distress flares. In April 2016 a sky lantern landed on a Dorset Nature reserve near Wareham starting a major gorse fire.

The call to ban balloon and sky lantern releases nationally is supported by the Marine Conservation Society, RSPCA, RSPB and the National Farmers’ Union.

This committee proposes that the Town Council should advise any group organising an event on land owned by the Council that no such releases will be permitted. It also requests the Bridport Councillors who sit on West Dorset District Council to consider putting a similar motion to that Council.”

**66. MARINELIFE: JURASSIC COAST COMMUNITY PROJECT**

The Town Clerk reported on a proposed project to engage and work with the local community, to be part of a project to observe and record the local populations of dolphins.

Members generally welcomed the project. An application for funding, if needed, could be considered at a later stage.

RESOLVED: that the “Dolphins on our Doorstep: MarineLife Citizen Science Project” be supported in principle at this stage.

**67. COMMUNITY DRIVEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3181.

Members welcomed the general aims of the project and agreed that there was a need for further work, to identify where support would be needed.

RESOLVED: that the Committee gives its support to further work being undertaken with Communities Living Sustainably on its project for Community Driven Economic Development in Bridport.

**68. GREEN FORTNIGHT**

The Chairman reported the arrangements for Green Fortnight (24 March to 8 April).

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**69. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Skills Training Bridport - Cllr Kelvin Clayton and Cllr Ros Kayes reported on the success of the Job Club, which recently had 26 attendees.

Youth and Community Centre Trust – Cllr Kelvin Clayton said that the Youth Club was going well and the Centre was about to hold a fund raising raffle.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**70. MANAGEMENT OF OPEN SPACES POLICY**

There were no further updates at this time.

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

**71. ONGOING PROJECTS UPDATES**

Rights Respecting – the Chairman reported that they were pulling all the responses together and drafting the documents, ready for the Charter Fair.

Neighbourhood Justice Panel – the Chairman updated on the project and that it was hoped to hold a meeting of the Steering Group very soon.

**72. FUTURE REPORTS**

There were no requests.

**73. CORRESPONDENCE**

It was reported that the difficulty of finding accessible accommodation locally had been raised. This was something that needed to be considered by all relevant agencies and authorities, to see what options were available to support accessible adaptations.

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

**The next meeting of this Committee will be held on 7 June 2017 at 7pm.**