

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE of
Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday 10 January 2018
at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Kelvin Clayton (Chairman)

Derek Bussell

Anne Rickard

Barry Irvine

Dave Rickard

Julian Jones

Barbara Vousden

Ros Kayes (from 7.20pm)

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the Public Forum.

47. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Sarah Horniman.

48. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1 November 2017 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

50. PUBLIC ART/SCULPTURE PROJECT

The Chairman provided an update on the project, following discussions with a public art consultant and also the District Council.

Insurance – it was for the landowner to have public liability and the artist would have their own insurance for their art work. There would be a written agreement between the landowner and the artist.

West Dorset District Council did produce a Public Art Statement back in 2008 and he had spoken to the Cultural Development Officer. Whilst the policy was not current, there potentially was some funding available and the officer would be happy to come along to the next meeting of the Working Group.

Also be useful to make links with the Neighbourhood Plan, Coastal Community Team and contact Dorset Art Development Company for their comments.

Next steps were for the Working Group to meet with the WDDC officer and to begin to look at sites.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

51. USE OF WASTE PRODUCTS TO GENERATE POWER

Members felt that the potential of schemes, such as the one described in the newspaper article, to generate power from dog waste could be looked at further, although it was noted that it was still very much a scheme in development. Any further information obtained could be reported back.

There was also a wider issue of having a digester in the town that could produce electricity.

RESOLVED: that the initiative be noted and any further updates be reported to a future meeting.

52. MANAGEMENT OF OPEN SPACES

The Town Clerk updated members on the current management of open spaces and the management partnerships in operation at the Community Orchard, Asker Meadows/New Zealand and the Millennium Green.

There was a discussion regarding the development of the management plan for Asker Meadows/New Zealand and how New Zealand in particular should be managed as a nature reserve.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and a report be submitted back on the proposed management plan for the New Zealand site.

53. UNIVERSAL CREDIT IMPLEMENTATION - UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported that a meeting was held with the Citizens' Advice Bureau to discuss local implementation. He had received an update from the CAB to say that it was only introduced on 6 December 2017 and as it was still early, they had not had too many cases. Initial Issues that had arisen though were:

- Accessing the Universal Credit (UC) telephone helpline.
- Clients without emails and telephones have had difficulty making online claims, which asks you to enter these details.
- Initial verification on Gov.UK (for proof of ID) appeared to be problematic.
- Confusion about which benefits to claim.
- Loss of income – most people appeared to be worse off under the UC system, compared to previous benefit entitlements.

It was reported that the District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee was to consider an update report on implementation at its January 2018 meeting.

There was a discussion about the impact of benefits for people running or working for seasonal small businesses and the difficulty of assessments being made that did not take this into account. It was felt that this needed to be looked at, to allow for variable incomes.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and further updates be received.

54. YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

The Chairman reported on the latest position and in particular the work looking at the future provision of the Youth Club and a possible youth cafe.

It was noted that the Trust had received a very generous donation from the Judo Club and were to receive a grant from West Bay Days.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

55. COMMUNITY BUS PROJECT

The Town Clerk was working on a report to Council, to summarise the current position and the options to provide a town centre bus service, including issues such as concessionary fares and whether the service should be provided using a commercial operator, or whether it was feasible for the Council to establish a Community Interest Company to run a service. He hoped to report to the next Council or, if members were happy, to convene a special Council meeting in February 2018.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

56. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Town Clerk reported on the latest position.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

57. RIGHTS RESPECTING CHARTER LAUNCH

It was noted that the Charter was to be launched at an event in the Town Hall on 31 January 2018. Key groups and stakeholders were being invited.

It was felt that it would be helpful to have an audit of the related actions already taken by the Town Council, including establishing restorative justice panels and how these impacted on people.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

58. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

The following updates were reported:

Citizens' Advice Bureau – Councillor Barry Irvine reported on the appointment of a new Chairman and some new trustees, ongoing training and the position on the CAB's building.

Arts Centre – Councillor Barry Irvine reported on the process to appoint a new Director, the current financial position and the new programme about to be issued.

Christmas Cheer – Councillor Anne Rickard reported on the success of the event.

West Dorset Climate Change – Councillor Dave Rickard reported on current initiatives, including the use of solar panels in car parks.

59. UPDATES ON OTHER ONGOING ISSUES

The Committee considered the following updates:

- Minerals and Waste Policy – there were no comments.
- Green Fortnight Arrangements – 14 to 28 April 2018.
- Plastics – action to reduce the use of plastics would be a theme of the Green Fortnight.
- Reusable bottles – the design of the Town Council reusable bottle was reported and comments made.
- Asset transfers – the current discussions with West Dorset District Council could also pick up other pieces of land, not currently being used, that could be beneficial for the community – green spaces/growing areas etc.
- Integrated Transport Review – Councillor Dave Rickard would attend the event on 26 February 2018.
- Community Energy Network event – Councillor Dave Rickard was to attend the event on 7 February 2018.
- Town Council Capital Programme – the Town Council’s draft Capital Programme included an allocation for future renewal energy schemes.
- West Dorset Partnership had a special meeting on Social Welfare Issues on 9 February 2018. The Chairman would attend with the BLAP Chair.
- Clinical Services Review – a judicial review was still under consideration by the action group. Any request for Town Council support could, if received, be considered by the next meeting of this Committee and the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The implications for Bridport and the legal authority would though need to be set out.
- Riverside Gardens Cycle Route – it was reported that this County Council application would be on the agenda for the Town Council’s Planning Committee on 29 January 2018.

The meeting closed at **8.55 pm**.

The next meeting of this committee will be held on 14 March 2018