

At a SPECIAL MEETING of the **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, Bridport on Tuesday 6 March 2018 at the conclusion of the Annual Town Meeting at 8.35 p.m.

PRESENT Cllr Anne Rickard – Town Mayor (in the Chair)

Cllr	Geoffrey Ackerman	Ros Kayes
	Derek Bussell	Gill Massey
	Kelvin Clayton	Maggie Ray
	Keith Day	Martin Ray
	Terry Harrison	Dave Rickard
	Sarah Horniman	Barbara Vousden
	Barry Irvine	Sarah Williams
	Julian Jones	

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the Public Forum.

52. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

53. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

55. STANDING ORDER 14(b)

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

56. COMMUNITY BUS

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3286.

Members discussed the report and it was generally felt that the proposed pilot should run for six, rather than three months, with a report back on usage after the first three or four months. It would also be important to confirm the route and timings of the service. These issues should be reported back with full costings, before the service was commissioned.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the proposal to commission a bus operator to provide a round Bridport bus service, running up to 6 times a day on a scheduled service, for a pilot

period of 6 months on a Wednesday and Saturday be approved as proposed in Appendix C.

- (2) that the councils in the parish areas through which the service runs, be approached to see if they would financially support the service.
- (3) that the service starts by June 2018.
- (4) that the full costs of the service, recommended provider and confirmed route, be agreed at the next Council meeting.
- (5) that support be given in principle to establishing a new Charitable Trust, or similar community managed body, to provide local bus services and take ownership of the vehicle offered by the County Council. That there be a report back to Council with proposed membership, objectives and business plan for services, including financial projections etc. including a progress report to the next Council meeting.
- (6) that as part of the actions to establish a new community run body as in 5 above, the Town Council works with Beaminster Town Council to look at how services between Bridport and Beaminster can be supported.

57. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3287.

The Town Clerk reported on the latest position and also on the letter received from West Dorset District Council. This asked for an indication of which assets and services the Town Council would be interested in assuming responsibility for, given that a viable plan for funding and operating them could be developed. The deadline for this information was 5 April 2018.

The Town Surveyor reported on the potential list of services that could be considered, plus the position on asset transfers that had been discussed with members previously.

Members felt that it was important that councillors had the opportunity to look at the detail of the proposed service and asset transfers and the Town Clerk was asked to report back on arrangements for member level consideration of the proposals including, if necessary, a new working group.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the latest position on Local Government Reorganisation, in respect of the potential delegation of services, be noted.
- (2) that the Town Clerk report back with proposals to consider a potential package of services and asset transfers, allowing for further discussion with Local Government Resource Centre, and to enable a response to be submitted to the District Council by 5 April 2018.
- (3) to receive a further report at the next full Council meeting.

At the conclusion of this item, it was agreed that the subject for the next Public Open Forum should be Local Government Reorganisation, what it could mean for local services and to hear what people think about more services being managed locally.

The meeting closed at **10.05 pm**.

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 27 March 2018