

At a SPECIAL MEETING of the **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, Bridport on Tuesday 24 April 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

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

Cllr Geoffrey Ackerman	Julian Jones
Sandra Brown	Ros Kayes (from 7.40pm)
Derek Bussell	Gill Massey
Kelvin Clayton	Maggie Ray
Keith Day	Martin Ray
Terry Harrison	Dave Rickard
Sarah Horniman	Barbara Vousden
Barry Irvine	

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the Public Forum.

The Town Clerk reported that Debbie Bond, Chamber of Trade and Commerce, had hoped to attend to ask when the town centre transport working group would be convened.

The Town Clerk stated that it was hoped that the working group would be convened soon.

68. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ros Kayes (for lateness) and Sarah Williams.

69. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

The following points of clarification were reported:

(Min. 62b. Planning Committee – St Michael’s Community Liaison Group) – the Dorset Wildlife Trust could be involved at the appropriate stage, when the Group was to consider the wildlife area.

(Min. 62c. F&GP Committee – Investment Review and Strategy) In response to members’ questions, the Town Clerk clarified the process for a recorded vote on items.

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

71. STANDING ORDER 14(b)

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

72. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Town Clerk reported on the latest position.

He reported on the discussions at the last Programme Board on 13 April, which received expressions of interests from all the town councils, including requests for more income generating assets. There was now a real sense of urgency to try to reach agreement on a package of services and assets, before the new shadow authority arrangements are established, as this may make any asset transfers more difficult to achieve, prior to the unitary being established. Following the Programme Board meeting, the District Council had met with LGRC to agree a “final” package of assets/funds for discussion with each town council. LGRC was due to meet with the Town Clerk and Town Surveyor on 26 April, to present the package for Bridport. It was then intended to convene a members’ working group, to discuss the package.

There had also been a District Council Strategy Committee earlier that day, which agreed to reconsider some additional assets for discussion with the Town Council.

Members felt strongly that additional assets were required, to allow the Town Council to take on other services, such as public toilets. It was important to continue to raise this with the District Council and further press releases should be issued, if required, to explain the Town Council’s position.

RESOLVED: that the latest position on Local Government Reorganisation, in respect of the potential delegation of services, be noted and the next stages and the District Council’s proposed package of assets and services be discussed further by a Members’ Working Group, to be convened by the Town Clerk.

73. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Town Clerk reported on the report from West Dorset District Council on the process for the review.

RESOLVED: that a members’ Working Group be established to prepare the Town Council’s submission. The membership of the Working Group to be:

Cllrs: Derek Bussell, Julian Jones, Anne Rickard, Dave Rickard and Sarah Williams.

74. APPOINTMENT OF NEW TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk had circulated a confidential report from the Appointments Panel prior to the meeting and following the interviews on 19 and 20 April. The report was taken in closed session under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

RESOLVED: that Will Austin be appointed to the post of Town Clerk for Bridport, as recommended by the Appointments Panel, and the current Town Clerk be given delegated authority to agree a start date and the terms as set out in paragraph 4.2 of the report.

75. COMMUNITY BUS NEXT STEPS

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3303.

Members discussed the report and it was: -

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to award the contract and commission the Round Bridport service, subject to confirming the final costs at the Special F&GP Committee on 23 May 2018.

76. COASTAL COMMUNITY TEAM PROJECTS AND REQUEST FOR COASTAL COMMUNITY FUND ROUND 5

The Town Surveyor reported on a revised proposed Round 5 Expression of Interest submission regarding a possible project for the toilet buildings on the bus station and potential links with a riverside walkway at St Michael's. This was an outline submission and more work would be undertaken, should the application be successful.

RESOLVED: that the proposed Expression of Interest submission under Round 5 of the Coastal Community Fund be supported.

77. SUPPORT FOR DEMENTIA WEEK

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3304.

RESOLVED: that the Council confirm its support for Dementia Awareness Week, including a contribution of £200 towards printing and publicity costs.

78. TOWN SURVEYOR'S REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Surveyor, ENCL: 3305.

(a) Vehicle purchase

RESOLVED: that a Peugeot Partner Van be purchased at a cost of £4,850 plus VAT, as outlined in the report.

(b) Proposed new allotments

RESOLVED: that additional allotment provision on land adjoining the Cemetery be investigated and a further full report be brought to a future Finance and General Purposes Committee.

79. PROJECTS

The Town Clerk reported on the current position on projects.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

80. ITEM FOR NEXT PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

RESOLVED: that the subject for the next Open Public Forum shall, depending on timing, either be asset transfers or proportional representation for unitary and other local elections.

The meeting closed at **8.30pm**

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 19 June 2018. The Annual Council (Mayor Making) will be held on 17 May 2018.