

At a MEETING of the **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, Bridport on Tuesday 21 November 2017 at 7.00 p.m.

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

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

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Mayor asked all present to join her in observing a minute's silence in memory of Steve Spear, Bradpole Parish Council Chairman and member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, who had tragically been killed in a road accident. The Mayor paid tribute to Steve and said that her thoughts were with his family and friends at this difficult time.

## **OPEN PUBLIC FORUM**

### **Town Centre Consultation**

The following people spoke in the public open forum on the town centre consultation:

Matthew Moore spoke regarding the detrimental impact on local businesses of any potential closure of South Street.

Mark Dicker spoke on issues regarding the consultation and particularly the potential impact of a trial closure. He hoped that the Town Council would now bring together all the various stakeholders in the town, to look at all the other traffic issues raised.

Hannah Newman, on behalf of Bridport Business, referred to the issues raised by Bridport Business during the consultation. They would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters, as part of a working group of stakeholders.

Richard Freer mentioned other alternatives that could be looked at, including: a shorter period for a closure, changes to the road layout, or changes to the traffic lights at the Town Hall Junction.

Mike Farmer spoke about the recommendation not to pursue the trial closure, which he said was very regrettable.

John Collingwood also regretted that the trial closure might not now be looked at and highlighted the continued need to look at traffic issues and the priority given to cars in the town.

Mark Grinter spoke about the detrimental impact of any closure of South Street on local businesses and the dispersal of traffic on to other roads.

Richard Nicholls highlighted the impact of traffic congestion in the town. It was important to continue to look at traffic matters.

Roy Gregory spoke about issues relating to the consultation. He added that the Tourism Association, as a key local stakeholder, should be involved in any future discussions.

The Mayor thanked everyone who had spoken in the Public Forum.

### **Public Forum**

The issue of speed limits on Sea Road South was raised by a member of the public, who did not wish to be named. She would like to see speed cameras considered, especially in view of the recent tragic accident.

Richard Freer spoke on behalf of Advearse and thanked those town councillors who spoke at the recent District Council Planning Committee. He also mentioned the judicial review being considered by Advearse.

Mike Farmer spoke about the impact of the 2009 changes to the town centre crossings and asked if these could be looked at once again.

Mark Grinter mentioned concern regarding religious organisations preaching in the town centre. He was asked to contact the Town Clerk with details of any incidents.

Richard Nicholls spoke about the increasing number of issues arising from the level of traffic in Victoria Grove and asked that this was looked at.

Gavin Fryer spoke about the position regarding funding, which he understood had been obtained, or was to be sought, for the Miles Cross junction improvements.

Mark Dicker spoke about his concern regarding the impact of the new cycle paths on Sea Road North. He had been advised to contact Dorset County Council. He also mentioned the need to monitor the impact of the proposed Vearse Farm development.

### **33. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllrs Sarah Horniman and Barry Irvine.

### **34. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

**35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

All the previously recorded interests declared under this item in the Committee minutes were noted. Cllr Geoffrey Ackerman declared an interest in the Finance and General Purposes Committee Minute 93 Devon and Dorset Army Memorial, as a member of the Association and would leave the room during the discussion and vote on the recommendation.

**36. STANDING ORDER 14(b)**

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

**37. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 25 September 2017 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Sarah Williams.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 25 September 2017 be received.

(b) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 30 October 2017 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Sarah Williams.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 30 October 2017 be received.

(c) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 15 November 2017 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Maggie Ray.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 15 November 2017 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted, as set out below (each recommendation was moved, seconded and declared to be carried):-

(Minute 82) FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2017/2018 – 2<sup>nd</sup> REVISION

RESOLVED: that the 2<sup>nd</sup> revision of the estimates for the year 2017/2018 be approved.

(Minute 85) LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROGRAMME BOARD FOR POTENTIAL DEVOLUTION OF SERVICES (WDDC)

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the Town Council continues to participate in discussions with the District Council on the devolution of services, as part of the proposed programme board and in respect of any potential asset transfers.
- (2) that the draft terms of reference for the Programme Board and devolution principles be approved, as attached to the report.
- (3) that the Mayor, Cllr Anne Rickard, be appointed to deputise for the Leader of the Council at the External Board meetings.

(Minute 93) DEVON AND DORSET REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL

RESOLVED: that a donation of £500 be approved for the national memorial.

(Minute 95) DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

RESOLVED: that the report be noted and a report be received at the next meeting on actions being taken to meet the requirements of the new Data Protection Regulations.

(Minute 99) COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

RESOLVED: that Cllr Derek Bussell be added to the membership of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee, to fill the vacancy on that Committee.

The Town Clerk reported that Min. 92 Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee was incorrectly shown in the minutes as a recommendation. This had been a resolved matter. The Committee will be asked to agree this amendment to the minutes, at its next meeting.

(d) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 1 November 2017 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Kelvin Clayton.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 1 November 2017 be received and the recommendation therein be adopted, as set out below: -

(Minute 38) HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING

RESOLVED: that the timescale for the implementation of Universal Credit in Bridport be noted and the following proposals be supported:

- (1) that the Citizens' Advice Bureau be contacted to see what the position was and whether there was any support that the Town Council could provide, in terms of assistance with information for the public.
- (2) to check whether there was a need for space for training, to assist people in completing forms. It was asked if the Job Centre could be used for this purpose.
- (3) a letter to be sent to the MP, raising concerns about the implementation in Bridport and asking if the timescale for the roll out could be reviewed.

(Minute 39) RIGHTS RESPECTING – NEXT STEPS

RESOLVED: that a formal public launch of the Charter be arranged and local organisations be invited to the launch and to discuss the wider roll out of the Charter.

**38. TOWN CENTRE CONSULTATION – NEXT STEPS**

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3261.

The Town Clerk reported on the outcome of the consultation, and thanked Katy Graham, the Town Council's Project Manager, for leading the work involved in collating the responses and producing the report. He also thanked Claire Peters-Way and Steven Yarde for all their help in inputting the large amount of responses received.

Members discussed the report and commented on the consultation process and the level of response. It was emphasised that the consultation was conducted in a very open manner, allowing everyone to have their say. The Town Council had not taken a pre-determined view on the matter. It was important now that all the comments, including support for 20mph speed limits, were properly considered with stakeholders. The Town Clerk would bring forward proposals to enable that to happen.

Bearing in mind the responses to the consultation on car parking and the comments on traffic speeds, including those at this meeting, additional recommendations were proposed on contacting the District Council regarding safeguarding the future of all the town centre car parks, the County Council on the need to retain free on street parking and Highways England and the County Council regarding speed cameras on Sea Road South.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the outcome of the consultation be noted.
- (2) that an application not be made to the County Council for a trial closure of South Street.
- (3) that the Town Council convene a meeting or working group of all key stakeholders in the town, including the Chamber of Trade and Bridport and

District Tourism Association, to look at all the other possible options for traffic management in the town, including 20mph speed limits, taking account of the comments made in the consultation responses. This to also include discussion with Dorset County Council, as the Highway Authority. The Town Clerk to report back on the mechanism for this to happen.

(4) that it be noted that the Town Council is already working with partners, looking at new community bus options and seeking to identify additional car parking spaces, that could be utilised next summer.

(5) that bearing in mind the issues raised in the consultation and related issues raised at the meeting, the Town Clerk be instructed to contact the following agencies:

- West Dorset District Council - to seek confirmation that all the town centre's car parks are to be retained and that there were no proposals for development on any of the sites.
- Dorset County Council - to reiterate that the Town Council wished to see free on street car parking retained.
- Highways England and Dorset County Council - to ask that speed cameras be considered for Sea Road South.

### **39. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM**

RESOLVED: that the subject for the next Open Public Forum shall be community safety / policing and the local Police Inspector be invited to the meeting.

### **40. COMMUNICATIONS**

The following items were reported for information:

- (1) The Town Mayor reported her list of engagements, ENCL: 3259.
- (2) The Leader of the Council reported that Bridport, as the holders, would be hosting the county wide Town Crier's competition in the Borough Gardens and on Bucky Doo Square on Wednesday 22 November 2017. Later the same day, she would be part of a team of councillors taking part in a fundraising quiz for the Town Mayor's charities, in the Town Hall.

The meeting closed at **8.33pm**

**The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 23 January 2018**