

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday 5 September
2018 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Kelvin Clayton (Chairman)

Derek Bussell	Ros Kayes
Sarah Horniman	Anne Rickard
Barry Irvine	Dave Rickard
Julian Jones	

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the public forum.

14. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Barbara Vousden.

15. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 June 2018 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17. COMMUNITY BUS PROJECT

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council had launched 'Service 7', a new round-town bus for Bridport and surrounding areas operated by First Bus, on 22 August 2018 for a six-month trial period. Initial feedback had been positive and some early suggestions for improvement would be considered at the next Community Bus Working Group meeting on 14 September. This meeting would start work on a three-month review which would include whether the service should continue after six months and the governance arrangements.

Members welcomed the new service, and discussed the need for strong promotional activity and alternatives to a commercial bus operator.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

18. ZERO CARBON TOWNS WORKSHOP

Councillors considered the notes of a workshop attended by the Project Manager, ENCL: 3343. The event provided details of carbon reduction initiatives being undertaken by Frome Town Council.

Members considered whether a 'zero carbon' target could be achieved, and agreed that it was nonetheless a useful principle.

Cllr Anne Rickard advised that Transition Town Bridport would be happy to engage with relevant projects to take this initiative forward.

Members further considered the need for housing developments to include features that contribute to carbon reduction.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Project Manager be noted.

19. LOW CARBON DORSET PROGRAMME

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3341.

Members invited Derek Moss of the Low Carbon Dorset Programme to summarise the findings and opportunities from his study on how Bridport Town Council could best use a £100k budget to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the buildings it owned and controlled, along with several other buildings. Possible initiatives included a biomass boiler, installation of solar photovoltaic panels, and LED lighting.

Members question Mr Moss on the detail of the potential measures, and in particular the practical and financial feasibility of a biomass boiler, including the funding criteria for grants made available by Low Carbon Dorset. Grant aid required that projects should demonstrate 'innovation'.

Members also considered whether additional funding could be sought from other sources such as the lottery, and whether investing in low carbon initiatives to deliver long-term cost savings could be considered in the same way as any financial investment with a return.

Mr Moss advised that free design consultancy was available for projects such as the biomass boiler, which would set out the costs and technical issues. He advised that this could be carried out for Mountfield and another building, and that the costs could be separated out should there be a desire to proceed at Mountfield only.

RESOLVED: that a no-cost design for a biomass boiler be pursued.

RECOMMEND: that the potential measures identified in the Low Carbon Dorset Programme report be considered and taken forward.

20. ONE PLANET LIVING FRAMEWORK

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3342.

Summarising the report, the Chairman reported that the One Planet Living Framework could enable the Town Council to establish some green principles. It comprised ten principles that were supported by detailed goals and guidance. Together, these aimed to provide a clear, practical route map to create a sustainability action plan for any organisation. Members were asked to consider the framework, and agree any next steps, including the option of creating a working group to consider the matter in more detail.

Members considered the ten principles, highlighting that local demography might have an impact, and the need for partnership working across the community if the framework was to achieve positive outcomes. There was support for the creation of a working group with a wide membership.

RESOLVED: that a working group be established to consider the One Planet Living Framework, comprising all town councillors and representatives of the Neighbourhood Plan participants, the Bridport Business Chamber, Bridport Local Area Partnership, and Transition Town Bridport.

21. TOWN COUNCIL USE OF GLYPHOSATE-BASED WEEDKILLER

The Town Clerk reported that Glyphosate-based weedkillers were not in use at any Town Council property.

Members welcomed this approach, and asked that it be affirmed in procedural documents for staff.

RESOLVED: that the committee notes that Glyphosate-based weedkiller is not used on Town Council premises, and requests that neither this nor nicotinoid-based substances be used in future.

RESOLVED: that a press release be drafted setting out the Town Council's position.

RESOLVED: that Transition Town Bridport be asked to approach local suppliers to discuss the possibility of Glyphosate-based weedkiller being removed from sale.

22. RIGHTS RESPECTING UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported that the Rights Respecting Charter had been promoted at the Food Festival and the Melplash Show. It was also hoped it would feature on the honours board to be installed at the Town Hall, and at this year's Charter Fair.

The Chairman advised that the Mayor had also sent a letter to businesses and organisations promoting the Charter.

RESOLVED: that the updated be noted.

23. ELECTRIC VEHICLE EVENT FOR DORSET LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND BUSINESSES, 2 JULY 2018

The Chairman reported on his attendance at this event, organised by the Business Travel Network. He had been impressed by the speed of innovation and the range of vehicles available, and advised members on financial support available from the Government Office for Low Vehicle Emission, and the savings that might accrue to the Council.

Members considered the opportunities presented by electric vehicles, and ask the Town Clerk to establish the extent to which the charging points in local car parks were being used.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

24. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

West Dorset Climate Change Steering Group – Cllr Dave Rickard reported as the BLAP representative to this group. He advised that the Government had published a National Adaptation to Climate Change Programme. He advised that there had been some consideration of climate change policy locally, but that he was not aware of any support to the elderly during hot weather such as that experience this summer. He asked that West Dorset District Council, Dorset County Council and the NHS be asked whether there was any such support available in Bridport.

Christmas Cheer – Cllr Anne Rickard reported that meetings had begun planning for this year's event.

Bridport Youth and Community Centre Trust – Cllr Kelvin Clayton reported that the Trust had appointed a Youth Development Worker, who had brought a lot of ideas.

Skills Training Bridport – Cllr Kelvin Clayton advised that the Job Club was quiet at the moment.

Health – Cllr Ros Kayes reported that the 'Defend Dorset NHS' campaign had lost a judicial review into changes in local health provision made by Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group. An appeal was under consideration.

25. ISSUES FOR FUTURE REPORTS

No issues were proposed.

26. UPDATES ON OTHER ONGOING ISSUES/CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence or updates on other ongoing issues were tabled for consideration.

The meeting closed at **8.30pm**.

The next meeting of this committee will be held on 7 November 2018