

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday 7 November
2018 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Kelvin Clayton (Chairman)

Derek Bussell Sarah Horniman
Barry Irvine Julian Jones
Anne Rickard Dave Rickard
Barbara Vousden

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the Public Forum.

27. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Ros Kayes.

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

29. MINUTES

Subject to replacement of the phrase “Members considered whether a ‘zero carbon’ target could be achieved...” with “Members doubted that a ‘zero carbon’ target could be achieved...”, the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 September 2018 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Members noted that Transition Town Bridport had discussed the use of glyphosate-based weedkiller informally, and that the issue of electric vehicle charging points would need to be followed up with the District Council.

30. COMMUNITY BUS PROJECT

The Town Clerk gave a summarised report that was to be considered by Finance & General Purposes Committee on 14 November 2018. This advised that use of the service had not met its target. A working group had recommended to F&GP Committee that the pilot period be extended from six to twelve months to allow experimentation with changes to the route.

Members considered the possible benefits of further promotion of the service, and the cost and merits of extending the pilot.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Town Clerk be noted.

31. RIVER BRIT CORRIDOR & ASKER MEADOW MANAGEMENT PLANS

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3367.

The Town Clerk summarised the report, which outlined work to provide a management plan for a proposed riverside walk. A similar plan was in place for Asker Meadows and this was currently being reviewed. Both initiatives would feed into a strategic approach to the management of green corridors in Bridport.

Members considered the need to consider other areas such as land between Jessopp Avenue and Sea Road North, and the protection of trees.

Members requested that the committee be kept updated on progress.

RESOLVED: that update be noted.

32. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3368.

The Clerk summarised the report, which gave details of a consultation carried out by West Dorset District Council in the Skilling and Court Orchard areas. Concerns raised included anti-social behaviour and dog fouling. A subsequent report had recommended a poster campaign regarding drug-related issues.

Members considered the report and expressed concerns that the approach to consultation was seemingly disjointed. On the issue of drugs, there was a need for greater engagement with the Police and other agencies.

RESOLVED: that the Community Development Officer at West Dorset District Council and Inspector Neil Wood be invited to a meeting to consider issues of crime and anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED: that the consultation carried out by Dorset Councils Partnership be noted.

33. YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

The Chairman reported on the current position at the Centre and updated members on fundraising, the appointment of a temporary Marketing Manager, governance, and maintenance issues. He further advised that the Youth Club was growing and that three new sessional workers had been engaged. Outreach activities were being considered. New trustees were needed, particularly any with a buildings maintenance background.

Cllr Jones suggested working with the Climbing Wall Centre, and the Chairman agreed to raise this with the Trust.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

34. COMPOSTING TOILETS

Cllr Horniman advised that she had requested that this matter be discussed. She reported on examples of eco-toilets being used elsewhere nationally and internationally, with both practical and environmental benefits. She recommended investigation of the 'Ourganics' Project, Clivus Multrum and Nat Sol.

Members considered possible opportunities should the Council take over responsibility for public conveniences, and in existing green spaces.

RECOMMENDED: that a feasibility study be carried out into the installation of composting toilets.

35. ONE PLANET LIVING WORKING GROUP

The Chairman reported that a working group agreed at the previous meeting had not yet met. There was consideration of the membership, and the Town Clerk agreed to progress the organisation of a meeting.

RESOLVED: that WATAG be added to the list of invitees to the One Planet Living Working Group.

36. RIGHTS RESPECTING UPDATE

The Town Clerk, the Chairman and the Mayor reported on events and initiatives that had featured the Rights Respecting Charter, including the Charter Fair, Light to the Darkness at the Arts Centre, and the Mayoral Christmas card. An event in the New Year was also being worked on.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

37. WEST DORSET CLIMATE CHANGE STEERING GROUP

Councillor Dave Rickard gave an update on this group, which had emerged from work in Local Area Partnerships. More people were attending than for some time, and Cllr Rickard was anxious to establish whether it would continue following Local Government Reorganisation. The last meeting had considered the IPCC report on global warming, and concerns that the government was planning for the impact of climate change rather than prevention.

Councillors considered the aims of the group, and the need to influence the Shadow Dorset Council to ensure that it continued.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Rickard's report be noted.

38. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Christmas Cheer - Cllr Anne Rickard reported that arrangements were being finalised for this year's event on 5 December 2018. Fundraising had included a bingo night, and a lantern workshop had been a success.

Food Festival – Cllr Anne Rickard reported that the AGM would be held on 13 November 2018 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall. This would include Front of House awards.

Bridport Arts Centre – Cllr Irvine reported on the 'sponsor a slate' appeal to restore the roof, the success of recent shows, HLF funding for support for activities for people with dementia, and the impending publication of a new programme.

Citizens Advice Bureau – Cllr Irvine reported on a joint project with Mencap for people with learning disabilities, and a popular training programme for advisers.

Wessex Water had still not issued a lease for the CAB building, and electrical works were being pursued. It was hoped that government funding would be made available to help people in receipt of Universal Credit.

RESOLVED: that the reports from outside bodies be noted.

39. FUTURE REPORTS

No items were suggested for future reports.

40. CORRESPONDENCE AND UPDATES

No correspondence or updates were reported.

The meeting closed at **8.40pm**.

The next meeting of this committee will be held on 9 January 2019