

At a MEETING of the **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, Bridport on Tuesday 22 January 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT Cllr Barry Irvine – Town Mayor (in the Chair)

Cllr	Geoffrey Ackerman	Gill Massey
	Sandra Brown	Maggie Ray
	Derek Bussell	Martin Ray
	Kelvin Clayton	Anne Rickard
	Keith Day	Dave Rickard
	Terry Harrison	Barbara Vousden
	Sarah Horniman	Sarah Williams
	Julian Jones	

### **OPEN PUBLIC FORUM**

No members of the public present asked to speak during the Open Public Forum.

### **Unitary Dorset Council**

The Town Clerk reported that the Shadow Dorset Council was preparing for unitary status on 1 April 2019, with a priority focus on the new council being safe and legal. A constitution and committee structure had been published, and six senior officer positions had been filled. The draft committee structure incorporated geographically-based planning committees, and Area Boards. It had been reported that the latter would not have decision-making authority, but were a possible means of engagement with local communities.

Councillors considered the issues arising from the process of creating a new unitary council. Concerns were expressed that there was no clear plan in relation to devolution of services to towns and parishes, and great uncertainty over the future of discretionary grant funding to community organisations from the new council. It would be important to establish local expectations of the unitary in terms of engagement, rather than simply responding to its suggested approach.

Cllr Anne Rickard said that the Town Council should seek to reinstate the previously agreed deal on service and asset transfers as a starting point.

Cllr Dave Rickard said that Area Boards should have the power to make recommendations, so as to exert some influence. He also expressed concern about the possible withdrawal of discretionary grant funding. Responding to a question from the Mayor, Cllr Rickard gave the example of Area Boards in Wiltshire, which included elected and non-elected representatives, and had taken on additional responsibilities over time since their inception.

The Public Forum ended at 7.13pm.

### **39. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr Ros Kayes.

**40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No members declared personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, and interests declared during committee meetings had been noted in the minutes of those meetings.

**41. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

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

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

**43. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 26 November 2018 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Sarah Williams.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 26 November 2018 be received.

(b) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 7 January 2019 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Sarah Williams.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 7 January 2019 be received.

(c) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 9 January 2019 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 9 January 2019 be received.

Cllr Sarah Horniman advised that she had not supported a 20mph speed limit at this meeting. The Town Clerk explained that the committee had not resolved to support such a limit, but had asked that the issue be considered at the Town Centre Working Group.

(d) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 16 January 2019 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 16 January 2019 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted, as set out below: -

(Minute 101) FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2018/2019 – 3rd REVISION

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that the 3rd revision of the estimates for the year 2018/2019 be approved.

(Minute 102) BUDGET AND ESTIMATES 2019/2020

Members discussed the proposed budget and recommendation from the Committee.

Members commented on the considerations set out in the report and the need to make some provision to protect discretionary services that are likely not to be delivered by the new unitary council.

Proposing that the recommendation be approved, Cllr Sarah Williams said that the increase was equivalent to less than the price of a pint of milk a week, and included the cost of devolved services provided by the Town Council.

Cllr Sandra Brown seconded the proposal, and said that councillors had spent a lot of time looking carefully at its financial needs. She considered the proposed precept the sensible option.

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, and it was

- RESOLVED:
- (a) that the draft estimates for 2019/20 be approved as attached in Appendix A to the budget and estimates report.
  - (b) that the proposed fees and charges for 2019/20 be approved as set out in Appendix B to the budget and estimates report, with a fundamental review of all charges during the year.
  - (c) that the draft capital budget and proposed use of reserves for 2019/20 and future years be approved, as set out in section 4 of the report, with a further report back with more detail to the next meeting of this Committee.

- (d) that the Medium Term Financial Plan be approved as a guide for future years, as in Appendix C to the budget and estimates report, noting that each year's budget will be subject to separate approval.
- (e) that in terms of the precept, Option 2 be approved, which increases the precept by £77,798 to raise £684,179.

The annual Band 'D' charge to increase from £207.08 to £227.54 (9.88%).

The vote in favour of the recommendation was unanimous.

(Minute 104) REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT AND APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2019/20

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that the existing internal audit arrangements continue for 2019/20.

(Minute 105) RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT: ANNUAL REVIEW

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that the Risk Assessment and Management Strategy policy document be approved, as attached to the Committee report.

#### **44. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM**

RESOLVED: that the subject for the next Open Public Forum should be the Neighbourhood Plan and that Phyllida Culpin of the Neighbourhood Plan Group and Trevor Warrick, the Spatial Policy and Implementation Manager of West Dorset District Council be invited to speak, along with David Dixon, the Bridport Town Council Project Manager.

#### **45. COMMUNICATIONS**

The following items were reported for information:

- (1) The Town Mayor reported his list of engagements, ENCL: 3399.
- (2) The Leader of the Council reported that Councillors would be represented by a team at the Mayor's Charity Quiz in the Town Hall on Friday 1 March 2019.
- (3) The Town Clerk reported that the West Bay Coastal defence Scheme was due to be carried out between April and July 2019, with the closure of both

east and west beaches confined to a two week period that would not overlap public holidays. Members expressed concern at the deliverability of the scheme within the proposed timetable. Cllr Sarah Williams said the Planning Committee would monitor the arrangements robustly.

- (4) The Town Clerk reported that the St Vaast La Hougue Twinning Association 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary visit would take place between 14 and 17 June 2019.
- (5) The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council would be represented at the Community Fair in the Town Hall on 2 February 2019.
- (6) The Town Clerk reported that the Mayor's Charity Concert would be held in the W.I. Hall in North Street on Friday 8 February 2019.

Cllr Keith Day reported on concerns regarding the Chancery House Trust, of which he was a trustee. The Trust had been approached by the Daniel Taylor Almshouses who would use the building to provide residential accommodation, and discussions to hand the building to them were ongoing. The building would retain its name even if run by a different organisation. Cllr Dave Rickard asked whether any space could be made available for a communal area available to the wider community. Cllr Day said that this was a possibility.

#### **46. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

RESOLVED: that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw for the following Finance and General Purposes referrals.

#### **47. BANKING MATTERS**

The Town Clerk reported that the Finance & General Purposes Committee had recommended to remain with Barclays bank for the foreseeable future and to review once again when the newly elected council has had time to settle in after the Town Council elections on Thursday 2 May 2019.

RESOLVED: that current banking arrangements be retained, pending a review following the Town Council elections in May 2019.

The meeting closed at **8.00pm**

**The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 9 April 2019**