

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday 13 March 2019
at 7.00p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Kelvin Clayton (Chairman)

Derek Bussell Anne Rickard
Barry Irvine Dave Rickard
Julian Jones Barbara Vousden
Ros Kayes (from 7.25pm, minute 63)

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the Public Forum.

60. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sarah Horniman. Cllr Ros Kayes had advised that she may not be able to attend until after the start of the meeting.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

62. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 January 2019 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Julian Jones asked whether intelligence gathering in support of the One Planet Living Working Group had commenced. The Town Clerk advised that it had not, as staffing resources were as yet unavailable for this task.

63. BRIDPORT LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP (BLAP)

Members received a presentation from Maureen Jackson, Chair of the Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP). She reported that:

- BLAP had, through a working group, been assessing current provision for rough sleepers, and gaps in provision.
- Their work had also engaged Cupboard Love, the CAB and local churches.
- BLAP was seeking the support of the Town Council in the search for premises that could be used to provide support for rough sleepers.
- BLAP would prefer that these premises incorporate the Foodbank, with extended provision to include advice from the Health, Mental Health, Police and Housing services, and washing/catering facilities for rough sleepers and 'sofa surfers'.
- The provision would not be for overnight accommodation, or for the statutory severe weather provision.

- Several possible locations had so far been considered/requested, but without success.

Responding to members' queries, Maureen advised that specific provision requirements would include availability for at least half a day, three days per week, in addition to the requirements already outlined. She further advised that separate premises were preferable, or that shared premises should only be considered where the other uses were compatible. She considered that the proposed creation of a Poverty Action Group could help with access to funding.

Cllr Ros Kayes arrived at this point (7.25pm)

Members discussed possible venues for consideration by BLAP, and the Town Clerk advised that the Town Council would need to make the matter one of its priority objectives, if it wished to get more directly involved.

Maureen was thanked for the presentation.

RESOLVED: that the update of the Chair of BLAP be noted.

64. FROM CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND FUEL WORKSHOP

Members received a report from the Chairman on a workshop he had attended with the Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer. The workshop had been interesting, but regrettably had not offered any significant new information.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Chairman be noted.

65. MOTION

Consideration was given to a motion submitted by Cllr Kelvin Clayton. Cllr Clayton proposed, and Cllr Dave Rickard seconded the following motion, as set out on the agenda:

That Bridport Town Council agrees to:

1. Declare a 'climate emergency';
2. Pledge to make Bridport Town Council carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
3. Call upon National Government and Dorset Council to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
4. Work with other local councils to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5⁰ C;
5. Continue to work with partners across the Bridport area, via its One Planet Living Working Group, to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
6. Review the progress and good work already accomplished since it signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in 2008;
7. Prepare a report within 6 months with the actions Bridport Town Council will take to address this emergency.

Cllr Clayton reported that since the motion was submitted he had met with the Council's Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer, to discuss how the motion could best be linked with the Neighbourhood Plan. As a consequence, Cllr

Clayton proposed, and Cllr Ros Kayes seconded the following amendment to item 6 of the substantive motion:

6. Arrange for its One Planet Living Working Group to:
 - Review the Town Council's progress and good work already accomplished since it signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in 2008;
 - Review the progress of the Town Council's own Climate Change Strategy as part of its review of the Town Plan; and
 - Explore how all of the above can be integrated within the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that the amendment be agreed and incorporated into the substantive motion.

Cllr Julian Jones said that declaring a climate emergency made a public statement, but he would also want it to be at the heart of what the Council did.

Cllr Derek Bussell said that some of the ideas within the motion could actually save on costs.

After further debate, it was

RECOMMENDED: that Bridport Town Council agrees to:

1. Declare a 'climate emergency';
2. Pledge to make Bridport Town Council carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
3. Call upon National Government and Dorset Council to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
4. Work with other local councils to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5⁰ C;
5. Continue to work with partners across the Bridport area, via its One Planet Living Working Group, to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
6. Arrange for its One Planet Living Working Group to:
 - Review the Town Council's progress and good work already accomplished since it signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in 2008;
 - Review the progress of the Town Council's own Climate Change Strategy as part of its review of the Town Plan; and
 - Explore how all of the above can be integrated within the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan.
7. Prepare a report within 6 months with the actions Bridport Town Council will take to address this emergency.

66. COMMUNITY BUS PROJECT

The Town Clerk reported that the revised Service 7 route and timetable had taken effect on 6 March 2019. The service would now visit the town centre more frequently, with shorter journey times. Some little-used aspects of the previous route had been removed, including West Bay, which was well-served by the X53

service. The changes had been promoted in the newspaper, online and with posters. Financial contributions had been agreed by Bradpole (£1,100) and Allington (£250) Parish Councils.

Members considered the need for as much promotion as possible, potential further changes to the route, and concerns that low parking charges may not help attract passengers.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

67. THE GROVE

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council was progressing the agreement of a lease from West Dorset District Council, and the Town Surveyor was working on options for sub-tenancies. All inquiries should be directed to the Town Surveyor, and options would be brought forward for member consideration in due course.

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."

Members discussed matters relating to one potential tenant. No decisions were made.

RESOLVED: "That the public be readmitted to the meeting."

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

68. RIGHTS RESPECTING

Members considered a request from the Rights Respecting Group for the Town Council to act as the responsible body for the next phase of the Rights Respecting initiative. He advised that the Town Council would need to take ownership of the initiative in order to agree this request and to satisfy audit requirements, and was mindful of possible resource implications in terms of staff capacity.

RESOLVED: that the request be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee, and that clarifications be sought from the Rights Respecting Group and the internal auditor.

69. GREEN FORTNIGHT

Cllr Julian Jones reported the arrangements for Green Fortnight, and thanked the Town Council for lighting the Town Hall Clock in green for the duration.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

70. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Clayton reported his thanks on behalf of the Bridport Youth and Community Centre Trust for a grant awarded for the development of a strategy document to support fundraising, and thanked the Mayor for his charitable fundraising for the Trust. He further reported on the Youth Club, which had achieved a membership of 100 and was hoping to start a Saturday club.

Cllr Clayton also reported on Bridport Soup, which had been won by two members of the Youth Club.

Cllr Anne Rickard reported the details of the Food Group's Best Breakfast event, which was to take place on 17 March 2019. She also reported that she had met with residents of Church Street, regarding concerns over air quality. The Town Clerk advised that he would provide contact details for the Environmental Health team.

Cllr Dave Rickard reported that there was doubt over the future of the West Dorset Climate Change Steering Group, and that pressure was needed for the new Dorset Council to retain it.

RESOLVED: that the reports from outside bodies be noted.

Cllr Ros Kayes left the meeting at this point (8.41pm)

71. UPDATES / FUTURE REPORTS

The Town Clerk reported that:

He had asked the Hospital Trust for details of pre-decision consultation on the 'repatriation' of kidney stone treatment and diagnostic investigation of the bladder from Bridport to Dorchester, and Musculo-Skeletal services to Blandford. The next public engagement session was at the Golf Club on 20 March 2019. A further session was planned and he had offered Bridport Town Council premises as a possible venue.

Concerns had been expressed about the impact on rare orchid species of the cycle path works from the Crown roundabout. The cycle path had been the subject of repeated informal and formal consultations, and the works had commenced. Dorset Coast Forum and DCC Highways were responding to the detailed ecological issues raised.

Coastal defence works had commenced at West Bay, and the Esplanade was now closed to traffic. The timetable details had been posted on the website. The contractor had confirmed that the works would cease during the Easter and May Bank Holidays, that one of the compounds had been moved further up West Beach, away from the Esplanade walkway, and on-site contact details for any urgent matters had been provided.

The meeting closed at **8.45pm**.

The next meeting of this Committee will be held on 5 June 2019