

At the ANNUAL MEETING of the **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, Bridport on Thursday 16 May 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT Cllr Barry Irvine (in the Chair for item 1)

Cllr	Geoffrey Ackerman	Ros Kayes
	Rose Allwork	Gill Massey
	Ian Bark	Maggie Ray
	Dave Bolwell	Martin Ray
	Sandra Brown	Anne Rickard
	Sarah Carney	Dave Rickard
	Kelvin Clayton	Sarah Williams
	Karen Hunt	Steve Williams
	Julian Jones	

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. Prior to the commencement of the meeting the following members of the public spoke:

Barry Bates spoke to update the new Council on a possible Judicial Review on the outline permission granted for a development at Vearse Farm and to seek its support and advice. He outlined progress towards a Judicial Review, explained why this was justified, and asked councillors to consider how they could help.

Malcolm Drew spoke on the motion seeking to declare a climate emergency. He referred to the Rio Summit 27 and the IPCC report on climate change. He recognised limits to Council powers but suggested initiatives it could pursue – a citizens' assembly, signs to turn off vehicle engines, electric vehicle charging points, PV solar panels and conditions for developers. He advised he would monitor the Council's work and would check in six months' time.

Celia Marsh spoke on the climate emergency motion, outlining the impact of a consumer society and economic growth on the environment and social division. She said that a citizens' assembly could build on the Neighbourhood Plan and involve the community. The Town Council had limited powers but could influence and facilitate, and could consider its use of buildings, vehicles and uniforms to see how these could be more environmentally friendly.

Rory Armstrong spoke on the climate emergency motion. He was 15 and was concerned that by the time he was 18 there would be drastic environmental changes. He expressed concern for future generations and said that the education system did not prioritise ecology. Agriculture, tourism and flooding would all be affected by climate change and the Town Council could press for change. He urged members to engage youth in their work.

Ali Edgeley gave her support to previous speakers on climate change, and spoke about community gardening as a specific initiative that could be pursued. She said that an Incredible Edibles initiative would enable pollinating-friendly plants and vegetables to be grown in public spaces. It would help create green pathways and biodiversity, transform areas with planters, and climbers on ugly brick walls. She advised that the project was ready to proceed, starting at the Bus Station, once permission was granted.

Cllr Barry Irvine, the outgoing Mayor, thanked members of the public for addressing councillors and welcomed the new Council.

1. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR (CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL)

It was moved by Cllr Geoff Ackerman, seconded by Cllr Martin Ray and, on being put to the vote:

RESOLVED: that Cllr Barry Irvine be elected Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year 2019/2020.

Cllr Barry Irvine signed the declaration of acceptance of office, offered thanks for his election, and assumed the chair.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR (VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL)

It was moved by Cllr Gill Massey, seconded by Cllr Sarah Williams and, on being put to the vote:

RESOLVED: that Cllr Anne Rickard be elected Deputy Town Mayor and Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year 2019/2020.

Cllr Anne Rickard signed the declaration of acceptance of office and offered thanks for her election.

3. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

It was moved by Cllr Sarah Williams, seconded by Cllr Maggie Ray and, on being put to the vote:

RESOLVED: that Cllr Dave Rickard be elected Leader of the Council for the ensuing municipal year 2019/2020.

Cllr Dave Rickard signed the declaration of acceptance of office and offered thanks for his election.

4. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Town Clerk reported that all councillors had signed their declarations of office, following the election on 2 May 2019.

5. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

7. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

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

No questions were submitted under Standing Order 14(b).

9. **COMMITTEES**

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 29 April 2019 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Sarah Williams.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee on 29 April 2019 be received.

Cllr Ros Kayes said she would appreciate a discussion about the affordable housing proposal considered by the committee. Cllr Sarah Williams advised that this would be on the next Planning Committee agenda.

10. **MAYOR MAKING**

Members were reminded that, as this was an election year, Mayor Making was to take place at a separate event, which would be held on Thursday 30 May 2019 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

11. **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, SUB COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS FOR 2019/20**

Consideration was given to the establishment of the committees, sub committees and working groups for the ensuing municipal year 2019/20, their terms of reference and delegations as set out in the Town Council's constitution, ENCL: 3419.

RESOLVED: that the committees, sub committees and working groups be established for 2019/20, with the terms of reference and delegations, including the delegations to the Town Clerk, as set out in the Appendix to the report.

12. **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, SUB COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS FOR 2019/20**

The proposed memberships had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: that the membership of committees, sub committees and working groups for the municipal year 2019/20 be approved as set out in the Appendix to these minutes.

13. **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND CHEQUE SIGNATORIES FOR 2019/20**

RESOLVED: that the current appointments to outside bodies and cheque signatories be confirmed.

14. STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Town Clerk reported that these documents were circulated with councillors' induction packs. A full review of both would be needed during the year, but pending that, he sought approval to continue using the current versions. There was no suggestion from the auditors that they were not fit for purpose, but both needed to be updated to accord with the model versions published by NALC. The Clerk recommended that members confirm as per the agenda.

RESOLVED: that the Council's existing Standing Orders and Financial Regulations shall apply for 2019/20, as previously adopted.

15. MEETINGS CALENDAR 2019/20

RESOLVED: that the calendar of meetings for 2019/20 be confirmed as previously circulated.

16. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3420. This confirmed that the Town Council met the eligibility criteria to use the Power of Competence.

RESOLVED: that the Council has met the eligibility criteria to use the Power of Competence as set out in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

17. CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Cllr Clayton proposed a motion as tabled within the agenda. He was mindful of public statements about the Town Council's powers, and wanted to use the Council's influence on others, including Dorset Council and the Government. He recognised that the actions within the motion would require further development.

Cllr Dave Rickard seconded the motion, and spoke in support of Cllr Clayton's statement. He said that other councils were also declaring a climate emergency and it would help put pressure on Dorset Council.

- Members considered the following:
- The importance of actions by the Town Council through its One Planet Living Working Group and the creation of a citizens' assembly.
- The possibility of obtaining 'plastic-free' status.
- The importance of working with schools.
- The need for the widest possible community engagement.
- The possibility of extending the Council's target of carbon neutrality to the entire town.
- The need for engagement with all sectors in the town including larger businesses.
- The potential role of Transition Town Bridport in pushing the motion forward.

- The need for every Council decision to consider its impact on the climate.
- The opportunity for the Council to drive awareness of climate change and to influence Dorset Council.
- The use of the Rights Respecting Charter to help influence young people in particular.
- The need to establish deliverable actions.

RESOLVED: 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:
 - i. Review the Town Council's progress and good work already accomplished since it signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in 2008;
 - ii. Review the progress of the Town Council's own Climate Change Strategy as part of its review of the Town Plan; and
 - iii. 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.

The Town Clerk advised that the motion would next be referred to the Environment & Social Wellbeing Committee for the development of the actions identified.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC FORUM TOPIC

The Town Mayor reported his list of engagements, ENCL: 3421.

The Town Clerk reported that:

- The Love Your Local Market promotion would launch on 18 May.
- A memorial to US Army personnel stationed in Bridport in WWII would be unveiled at a ceremony on 18 May.
- Mayor Making had been set for 30 May.
- Members had been asked to volunteer to help at forthcoming events.

Members considered the Neighbourhood Plan and the climate emergency as possible topics for the next public forum, and after discussion

RESOLVED: that the topic for the next Public Forum should be 'Ideas for practical steps towards Bridport becoming carbon neutral'.

19. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

“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”

The meeting adjourned briefly at this point while the press and public left.

20. TOWN COUNCIL LEASES

The Town Surveyor reported on ongoing work towards a tenancy at The Grove, and towards sub-tenancies. No decisions were required and the matter would be further considered at Finance & General Purposes Committee in June.

The Town Surveyor further reported on a possible lease of land to another organisation.

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

21. HONORARY TOWNSPERSON

RESOLVED: that the award of the Honorary Townsperson honour be approved, subject to the Town Clerk making the necessary arrangements for the Special meeting and presentation ceremony, as set out in the Town Council’s policy.

22. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The Town Surveyor reported on a possible grounds maintenance contract.

RESOLVED: that the Town Surveyor be authorised to enter into negotiations for the contract, subject to there being no use of weed spraying.

The meeting closed at **9.15pm**

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 18 June 2019

Bridport Town Council Memberships 2019/20

	Geoff Ackerman	Ian Bark	Dave Bolwell	Barry Irvine	Gill Massey	Martin Ray	Maggie Ray	Anne Rickard	Dave Rickard	Sarah Williams	Steve Williams	Kelvin Clayton	Julian Jones	Ros Kayes	Karen Hunt	Rose Allwork	Sarah Carney	Sandra Brown	Total	
MAIN COMMITTEES																				
F&GP (9)	*				*	*	*	*		*			*		*	*				9
Plans (9)	*	*	*	*				*		*		*	*				*			9
Environment (9)		*		*				*	*		*	*		*	*		*			9
JOINT COMMITTEE																				
NPJCC (1 + 1 reserve)		*								Res										1 + Res
JOINT COMMITTEES																				
Best Value (9)	*			*		*	*				*			*	*		*	*		9
WORKING GROUPS																				
Highways (5)	*	*				*							*				*			5
Market & Business (5)	*	*								*						*		*		5

Notes

1. No preferences were received in respect of membership of the Staffing Appeals Sub Committee. As a sub committee of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, this will be a matter for that committee at its next meeting.
2. The membership of working groups other than Market & Business Liaison and Highways & Transportation will be determined by the 'parent' committees.