

At a MEETING of the **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall, Bridport on Tuesday 19 November 2019 at 7.00pm.

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

Cllr	Geoffrey Ackerman	Ros Kayes (from 7.10pm)
	Rose Allwork	Gill Massey
	Dave Bolwell	Anne Rickard
	Sarah Carney	Dave Rickard
	Kelvin Clayton	Sarah Williams
	Karen Hunt	Steve Williams
	Julian Jones	

ALSO PRESENT Three members of the public.

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Bus Station Plans

The Town Surveyor provided a verbal update on progress towards the redevelopment of Bridport Bus Station, and displayed sketch drawings. A Town Council and Dorset Council officer steering group had been established with the aim of drafting a memorandum of understanding and a planning application. Previously reported aspects such as a transport hub, indoor stake park, café, music studio, car parking and bus and taxi offices would be pursued. Additional elements such as office and residential use would also be considered. Sir Oliver Letwin MP was thanked for his help in progressing the initiative. Regular updates would continue to be provided to the Town Council.

Councillors and members of the public considered:

- Whether there would still be a requirement for an area for bus washing and refuelling.
- The potential for housing that meets local need.
- The importance of retaining a bus station.

Bridport Community Bus

The Town Clerk reported on the operation of the community bus since its launch in August 2018. The service had operated as planned, although the route had been amended in March 2019. Passenger numbers were not as high as hoped, but the service was very highly valued by those who used it, many of whom would otherwise not be able to visit Bridport town centre. A review was underway to see whether the service could be made more cost effective, and three options were being considered: Continuing with the existing arrangements, changing to another bus provider, and a taxi alternative. The review would be considered by a stakeholder working group, before any proposals would come forward for Town Council consideration.

Councillors and members of the public considered:

- The possibility of extending the service to areas not currently served.
- The importance of the service to those who used it, particular those with restricted mobility.

- The need for a consistent timetable.
- The benefit of a smaller vehicle in accessing some parts of the town.

Public Forum

Mr John Collingwood advised that a WATAG meeting would be held on Thursday 28 November 2019 in the W.I. Hall in North Street at 6.30pm.

43. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllrs Ian Bark, Maggie Ray and Martin Ray.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

45. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

46. STANDING ORDER 14(b)

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

47. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 25 September 2019 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Anne Rickard.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 25 September 2019 be received and adopted.

(b) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 28 October 2019 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Anne Rickard.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 28 October 2019 be received and adopted.

(c) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 11 November 2019 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Gill Massey, who also outlined the reasons for each of the recommendations brought forward for Full Council approval.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 11 November 2019 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted, as set out below (each recommendation was moved, seconded and declared to be carried):-

(Minute 45) BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL FIVE-YEAR PLAN 2019-24

RESOLVED: that the draft Bridport Town Council Five Year Plan 2019-24 be approved for consultation, subject to the following amendments:

- (i) At page 12, the action relating to social prescribing be changed to read "Work with Public Health and Local Surgeries on social prescribing initiatives".
- (ii) At page 5, the mission statement be amended to read "To ensure Bridport remains a thriving community and a healthy, attractive and resilient place in which to work, live and visit. A Rights Respecting Town and strategic centre for the West Dorset area, with a vibrant retail, arts and cultural offer, set within a special and distinctive environment, recognised as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (the Dorset AONB)."

Members thanked the Project Manager for his work.

(Minute 46) CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

RESOLVED: that an earmarked reserve of £100,000 to support the Climate Emergency Action Plan be approved from 2019-20.

(Minute 47) SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY THE TOWN SURVEYOR

RESOLVED:

- (i) Delegated authority be given to the Town Surveyor to enter into agreement and purchase additional equipment for verge maintenance.
- (ii) £2,000 for feasibility work relating to the Old Dairy site be approved.
- (iii) Delegated authority is sought to enter into transfer agreements for parcels of land at the former railway line.
- (iv) The Town Clerk to respond to Dorset Coast Forum regarding the East Beach boardwalk project, and that the matter be considered by the Coastal Communities Team at the earliest opportunity.

RESOLVED: that a meeting of the Coastal Communities Team be held on 28 November 2019 to consider alternatives to the boardwalk project.

(Minute 49) ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2018/19

RESOLVED: That the report and finding of the external auditor in respect of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19 be approved.

Members thanked the Office and Finance Manager for his work.

(Minute 50) INTERNAL AUDIT

RESOLVED: That the report of the internal auditor be noted.

(d) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 6 November 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 6 November 2019 be received and the recommendation therein be adopted, as set out below: -

(Minute 30) CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

RESOLVED: that the draft Climate Emergency Action Plan be approved, subject to amendments taking account of issues raised by the committee; these amendments to be delegated to the Chairman and Clerk.

(Minute 31) TREE PLANTING ACTIVITIES

RESOLVED:

(i) that Town Council support for a tree nursery be approved.

(ii) that the Town Council signs the Woodland Trust Tree Charter.

(Minute 32) OPEN SPACES WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED: that the next Finance & General Purposes Committee be asked to approve a budget of £5,000 per annum for three years from 2020-21, to support the delivery of the Sculpture Trail project.

48. REPRESENTATIVES TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

The Town Clerk reported that a vacancy had arisen for the Bridport Area Development Trust.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Sarah Williams for her work with the Trust, and members considered a new representative.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Sarah Carney be appointed to this role.

49. DORSET COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN

Consideration was given to the Dorset Council Plan, ENCL: 3469 and supporting presentation, ENCL: 3470.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that a Working Group be formed to meet in the week beginning 16 December 2019 to consider a response, to enable submission by 20 December 2019.
- (ii) that councillors submit any comments for consideration by the Clerk and the Leader by 29 November 2019.

50. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

RESOLVED: that the subject for the next Open Public Forum shall be the Building Better Lives initiative.

51. COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were reported for information:

- (1) The Town Mayor reported his list of engagements, ENCL: 3466 and advised of a fundraising concert for his charities.
- (2) The Leader of the Council reported that the Harbour Master provided regular updates to the West Bay Forum and that it would be helpful if town councillors were appraised of the reports circulated to these meetings.
- (3) The Town Clerk reported that (a) a request had been received for action on the issue of homelessness, which would be referred to the Environment & Social Wellbeing Committee for consideration, (b) a consultation was taking place to inform a new management plan for Riverside Gardens and (c) a meeting with Dorset Council and developers would be held on 9 December 2019 at the Town Hall.
- (4) Cllr Sarah Carney reported that a meeting at Bridport Hospital had raised the possibility of regular meetings in future. This would be a matter for the Environment & Social Wellbeing Committee.
- (5) The Town Surveyor reported that free parking for all Bridport car parks would be available on all market days throughout December 2019.

52. 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.'

53. ASSET TRANSFERS

The Town Surveyor reported on a proposal for service and asset transfers.

RESOLVED: that the Town Surveyor be given delegated authority to enter into discussions.

The meeting closed at **8.42pm**

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 21 January 2020