

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday 11 March 2020
at 7.00p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Kelvin Clayton (Chairman)

Ian Bark	Anne Rickard
Sarah Carney	Dave Rickard
Karen Hunt	Steve Williams
Barry Irvine	

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk), David Dixon (Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer) and five members of the public.

PUBLIC FORUM

Julie Croley, Lucy Rowland and Kenny Martin addressed the committee to express concern in regarding potential adverse health, environmental and privacy implications of the rollout of 5G mobile communications. All called on members to carry out further research and to take whatever actions possible.

Members noted:

- The need for caution, and to support those lobbying Dorset Council for further research and action;
- The absence of information to address privacy and security concerns;
- Reassurances in respect of health concerns offered at a recent meeting of Dorset Council's Executive Advisory Panel;
- Historical lessons of commercial interests resulting in the suppression of health information, for example in respect of smoking;
- The need for good independent research; and
- The potential to improve existing mobile data provision rather than introduce new technology without proper research into the impact.

The Chair thanked members of the public for their input.

49. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

51. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 January 2020 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

52. CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Sub Committee held on 13 February 2020 be received and the following recommendation be approved:

(Min. 4) Terms of Reference

RESOLVED: that the terms of reference include provision for a Public Forum at Climate Action Sub Committee meetings.

53. OPEN SPACES TASK FORCE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the task force held on 3 March 2020 be received and the recommendation therein be deferred to item 8 on the agenda (Riverside Gardens Management Plan, see minute 56 below).

54. DORSET COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON DOG RELATED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)

Consideration was given to a response to the consultation, ENCL: 3494.

Members discussed the following:

- Specific areas in Bridport and West Bay that would be affected;
- Restrictions at East and West Beaches;
- Concerns about the minority of dog owners who did not pick up dog mess or control their dogs;
- The benefits of the former dog licence scheme;
- Concerns about capacity to enforce a PSPO given the limited number of Dog Wardens employed by Dorset Council.

Members noted the sensitivities and strongly held views within the community, and considered that individual responses might provide a more representative view than a single Town Council response.

RESOLVED: that no response be made by Bridport Town Council to the Dorset Council consultation on a dog-related Public Space Protection Order, and that members will respond individually if so minded.

55. RAISE THE ROOF PROJECT

Consideration was given on the 'Proposition for Bridport' study produced by Assemble Studio, ENCL: 3495.

Members considered:

- The cost of the project;
- The potential carbon reduction benefits;
- Possible locations for a pilot building project;
- Community engagement and crowdfunding; and
- Whether the need for community space and affordable housing in Bridport could be addressed through this initiative.

RESOLVED:

- that the completion of Phase 1 of the Raise the Roof project and the Proposition for Bridport report be noted.
- that the proposal to bring CASS Student Final Show to Bridport in June/July be supported.
- that the Raise the Roof event on a Town Council site in July 2020 be supported.

RECOMMEND: that Bridport Town Council agree to be a partner in Raise the Roof Phase 2 and allocate a budget for design and construction of a community building for grant application purposes.

56. RIVERSIDE GARDENS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Consideration was given to the Consultation Report, ENCL: 3496 and revised Management Plan for Riverside Gardens, ENCL: 3497.

The Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer reported that this had been discussed in depth by the Open Spaces Task Force at its meeting on 3 March 2020, the notes of which had been received and considered earlier in the meeting (see minute 53 above).

Members discussed the report and plan, and thanked the Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer for his good work on these documents. They further considered:

- The climate impact of planting;
- The long-term maintenance implications; and
- The challenges of cultivating wild flowers.

RESOLVED: that the consultation report be noted.

RESOLVED: that the Management Plan for Riverside Gardens be approved.

57. BRIDPORT GREEN ROUTE

The Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer reported that this had been discussed by the Open Spaces Task Force at its meeting on 3 March 2020, the notes of which had been received and considered earlier in the meeting (see minute 53 above). It was hoped that the route and map would be launched on 18 April 2020, and a family-friendly version was under consideration. Potential links to adjoining routes in neighbouring parishes would be a benefit accruing from the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer be noted.

58. GREEN FORTNIGHT

Cllr Anne Rickard reported that:

- Bridport Green Fortnight was going well;
- A major element was the Fashion Revolution Campaign, including a presentation on making better choices in what we wear, the film 'True Cost', and a 'Love Your Clothes' story telling event at Soulshine Café;
- Six further events were planned, the next being 'Get Swishing' on 17 March; and

- Details were available online and in the Green Fortnight leaflet.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

59. RIGHTS RESPECTING STEERING GROUP

The Town Clerk reported on a meeting of the Steering Group on 2 March 2020, which had considered:

- Work by Bournemouth University with ‘hard to reach groups – elderly and homeless – on barriers to rights;
- Engagement and digital media;
- Engaging business and community groups
- Implementing the Charter in public spaces
- Schools/youth activity;
- Town Council activity, including a workshop attended by senior officers and a proposal for a councillor workshop; and
- Future activity.

Members considered the merits of a councillor workshop, and

RESOLVED: that the Steering Group be requested to provide a presentation to all town councillors in an informal setting, with a focus on the implications for the Town Council.

60. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Dave Rickard reported that Transition Town Bridport had agreed to progress ‘Plastic Free’ status for Bridport, and a councillor representative had been requested for a working group.

RECOMMEND: that Cllr Ian Bark be appointed as the Town Council representative to the Plastic Free Bridport group.

Cllr Barry Irvine reported that the transfer of Bridport Arts Centre to a new owner had been completed.

Cllr Sarah Carney updated members on matters relating to Bridport Hospital.

Cllr Kelvin Clayton reported that Bridport Round Table had awarded £5,000 over two years to Bridport Youth & Community Centre Trust, for youth club provision.

RESOLVED: that the reports from outside bodies be noted.

61. UPDATES / FUTURE REPORTS

Consideration was given to a request from Defend Dorset NHS Residents Group: ENCL: 3498, requesting that the Town Council respond to a Competition and Markets Authority consultation on the merger of Poole and Bournemouth Hospital Trusts.

RESOLVED: that a response to the Competition and Markets Authority consultation on the merger of Poole and Bournemouth Hospital Trusts be made as follows: “Bridport Town Council expresses concern that the loss of A&E care from Poole will

put unacceptable pressure on Dorset County Hospital A&E, which is already operating at almost twice capacity, and ask that the 16 hour A+E Local option, suggested by the Independent Panel as a possible viable option for Poole Hospital, be actively considered.”

The Town Clerk reported that:

- Bridport Millennium Green Trust had requested Town Council assistance in the treatment of Japanese Knotweed.
- The Community Bus Working Group would meet on 12 March 2020 to consider future options for the round-Bridport bus service. Any recommendation would be considered by the Council’s Finance & General Purposes Committee.

The meeting closed at **8.50pm**.

The next meeting of this Committee will be held on 3 June 2020