

**Will Austin
Town Clerk**

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To all Town Councillors

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10 June 2020

Dear Councillor

A meeting of the Town Council will be held virtually on **Tuesday 16 June 2020 at 5.30pm**, when it is proposed to transact the following agenda.

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone, at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/777258597>.

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Yours sincerely



Town Clerk

The meeting is open to the public

AGENDA

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Prior to the start of each ordinary Council meeting, there will be an Open Public Forum of up to 45 minutes for electors or residents in the parish of Bridport or adjoining parishes. This will be in two parts:

- a public discussion on a particular issue of current interest. Items for discussion, which shall be introduced by a councillor, shall be agreed by

a previous Council meeting. There will be no time limits on public contributions in this section of the Open Forum. The topic for this meeting will be 'whether the Town Council should embrace virtual meetings after COVID-19, return to physical meetings, or consider a hybrid of the two.'

- public questions or statements, primarily in respect of **other** items on the agenda of the Town Council meeting, but also in the interests of wider public discussion. Each question/contribution under this section will not exceed three minutes in duration.

1. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for absence submitted by Members.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest by members.

3. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 14 May 2020 ([copy herewith](#)).

4. STANDING ORDER 14(b)

Questions, if any, pursuant to Standing Order 14(b).

5. COMMITTEES

To receive and consider the minutes of the following meetings:

a. **Planning** **1 June 2020** [\(copy enclosed\)](#)

b. **Finance and
General Purposes** **8 June 2020** [\(copy enclosed\)](#)

Including the following recommendations:

(Min No. 7)
RECOMMEND: **Report of Internal Auditor**
that the report of the Internal Auditor for the final visit of 2019/20 be received and approved.

(Min No. 8)
RECOMMEND: **Annual Accounts – Year Ending 31 March 2020**
that the Annual Accounts for 2019/20 be approved.

(Min No. 10 (i))
RECOMMEND: **Coronavirus – Response and Impact**
that a working group and remit be established by Full Council, to review the Town Council Five-Year Plan.

(Min No. 10 (ii))
RECOMMEND: **Coronavirus – Response and Impact**
that a working group and remit be established by Full Council, to consider a post-COVID-19 community plan.

(Min No. 13)
RECOMMEND:

Appointments and Representatives of the Council
that the list of representatives on outside bodies be approved as in Appendix 1 to the minutes, subject to any additional amendments at Full Council.

- c. **Environment and Social Wellbeing** **3 June 2020** [\(copy enclosed\)](#)
6. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2019/20
To consider a report of the Town Clerk, [ENCL: 3520.](#)
7. MOTION ON SUPPORT TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS
To consider the following motion from Cllr Dave Rickard submitted in accordance with Standing Order 11(a):

Below is a motion from Bridport Town Council to Her Majesty's Government which we wish to be endorsed by DAPTC and which we would like other Dorset Councils to have the opportunity to endorse. The motion requests government support for Town and Larger Parish Councils in the light of extra expenses and losses due to delivering extraordinary services and loss of revenue from their business interests during the COVID-19 crisis.

THE MOTION

Bridport Town Council notes that:

- a. Government departments, businesses, individuals, charitable organisations and principal local authorities have all seen specific funding support.
- b. Town and parish councils are arguably the only sector of society not to have received some form of direct government support, yet many are not only local authorities but small businesses as well.
- c. Those councils in tourist areas like Dorset are suffering not only more costs in adapting to the regulations to protect our society and organising community support networks, but also from loss of revenue from the restriction of visitors.

Bridport Town Council requests that Her Majesty's Government recognises that:

- a. Town and Larger Parish Councils are expected to rely on business income to supplement their precept revenue and, in the light of disappearing subsidies from higher authorities, are suffering financially during the present crisis.
- b. In many areas of our delivery of services and community support, we are no different from small businesses which currently are eligible for grants, loans and rate & tax reliefs to mitigate those financial shortfalls.

Bridport Town Council therefore calls on Her Majesty's Government to:

- a. Ensure that affected Town & Larger Parish Councils are included in the category of businesses that are given financial support during and beyond the present crisis.

8. MOTION ON FIRES ON PUBLICLY AVAILABLE LAND

To consider the following motion from Cllr Sarah Williams submitted in accordance with Standing Order 11(a):

In light of the danger of fires caused by recent dry weather, and considering the strain placed on already stretched emergency services, this Council:

- a. Agrees to prohibit the lighting of fires of any form, including disposable barbecues, on any land owned or otherwise controlled by Bridport Town Council until further notice. This prohibition will remain in force until such time as reversed by the Council, and exceptions will be allowed only with the express written permission of the Council.
- b. Calls on landowners in the Bridport area to implement similar prohibitions.

9. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

To agree issue for discussion at the next Open Forum.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

To receive such communications as the Town Mayor, Leader of the Council and the Town Clerk may wish to report to Council.

**The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on
29 September 2020**