

Minutes of a VIRTUAL meeting (GoToMeeting ID: 567-924-509) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held on Wednesday 9 September 2020 at 5.30pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Kelvin Clayton (Chairman)

Ian Bark	Ros Kayes (from 5.47pm)
Sarah Carney	Anne Rickard
Karen Hunt	Dave Rickard
Barry Irvine	Steve Williams
Julian Jones	

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk), David Dixon (Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer), Barry Lovejoy (Bridport Refugee Support), Alan West (Bridport Refugee Support) and Ann-Marie Knox (resident).

PUBLIC FORUM

Ann-Marie Knox addressed members in respect of concerns about noise and fumes from Bridec on West Bay Road. She had previously provided an email setting out her concerns and this had been circulated to members. She added that:

- Some neighbours were also affected.
- She did not know why Dorset Council had not acted against the company.
- Dorset Council had referred to planning issues, but Ms Knox was concerned with machinery that created noise and dust, that was affecting her sleep.
- The case had been running for two years, and she had agreed to close the case after four days of peace, but it had now become intolerable again.
- She would be asking the neighbours to write to Dorset Council.
- Bridec was working with melamine, a material known to be carcinogenic, and chipboard which contained harmful chemicals. Their activity was inconsistent with the climate emergency.
- She wanted action to be taken to deal with the noise, smoke and acrid fumes.

Members discussed:

- Whether there had been any monitoring of fumes. Ms Knox said there had been when the issue was raised, but that the equipment was inadequate for fumes or vibration. She had also kept a log.
- Whether a private contractor could assist Ms Knox and her neighbours in providing monitoring data.
- Concerns about the apparent lack of influence that residents have over the issue.

Cllr Kayes joined the meeting at this point at 5.47pm

Cllr Kelvin Clayton said he would raise the matter with the Environmental Health Officer. Cllr Ian Bark advised Ms Knox to contact the Health and Safety Executive, to request that an inspector visit the factory.

The Chairman thanked Ms Knox for her address.

14. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Barry Irvine.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 June 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and that the Chairman should sign the minutes at the earliest available opportunity.

17. CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Climate Action Sub Committee of 30 July 2020 be received and the decisions therein adopted.

Members discussed:

- The implications of Public Works Loan Board borrowing to fund climate activity.
- Changes to the Council's energy suppliers.
- Divestment from funds that invest in activities contributing to the climate emergency.
- Possibilities for installation of PV solar arrays for local energy generation.

The Town Clerk reminded members that all were invited to attend the sub committee meetings and this would assist in avoiding duplication of debate.

18. BRIDPORT REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP GROUP

Barry Lovejoy presented on the work of the group, including a leaflet that set out their aim of helping a refugee family to settle in Bridport. He thanked the Council for recommending the award of a grant to the group and set out the background to its creation, stemming from a Home Office scheme. The nearest established groups were in Ottery St Mary and Uplyme and these had inspired Barry to start working on the issue in Bridport. The group would provide support, including for language training, schooling and accommodation. The target for fundraising was £15,000 to £20,000. The initiative fitted with the town's Rights Respecting agenda and would launch in two weeks' time. He was hoping to arrange public events for fundraising and to attract volunteers.

Alan Weston added that the more people were involved, the more the community would accept the initiative. He considered that the Bridport community would be well placed to support the idea.

Members spoke in support of the groups aims and discussed:

- The need for formal support from Dorset Council.
- Support for employment.
- Integration of a family into the community.
- The means by which a specific endorsement from the Town Council could be achieved if needed.

- Bridport's history of hospitality towards refugees.

The Chairman thanked Barry and Alan for their attendance and presentation.

19. POSSIBLE MOTION ON ANTI-RACISM

The Town Clerk reported that several people involved in recent anti-racism and Black Lives Matter activities in Bridport had approached him to ask that the Council make a statement in respect of anti-racism. He asked members to consider whether a motion should be brought forward.

Members considered:

- The need to avoid a motion sounding like repetition of previous actions and statements.
- The benefits of the Council making a strong statement as this was a 'live' issue in Bridport.
- The likely community reaction to a Town Council statement.

Cllrs Ros Kayes and Sarah Carney agreed to work together to draft a motion for Full Council.

20. MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR JELLYFIELDS AND BOTHENHAMPTON NATURE RESERVE

The Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer reported that consultations on the management plans would close on 10 September 2020. Final drafts would follow and would be sent to Bridport Town Council and Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council for consideration. Responses to the consultation had been limited, but so far supportive.

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

21. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY SUPPORT – DORSET RACE EQUALITY COUNCIL (DREC)

Consideration was given to a report, ENCL: 5631, which set out support available from Dorset Race Equality Council, including training, health checks and community engagement.

Members discussed:

- The benefits of training in unconscious bias.
- Whether training should be optional for members.
- The need for any training to cover the breadth of equality and diversity issues, rather than focused solely on race.
- Prejudice against travellers.
- The correlation between class and race.
- The relationship between this item and the discussion of a possible motion on anti-racism.

RESOLVED: that interactive unconscious bias training be pursued.

22. YOUTH FORUM

Cllr Ian Bark reported on discussions towards establishing a Youth Forum to engage and involve young people in the community and the work of the Town Council. This would not be a simple Youth Council and might have specific tasks to report back on.

Members spoke in support of the initiative and

RESOLVED: that work towards the establishment of a Youth Forum be supported.

23. BRIDPORT RIGHTS RESPECTING TOWN STEERING GROUP

The Town Clerk updated members on the last meeting of the Steering Group on 16 July 2020 which had considered:

- Adoption of a statement of commitment by the Town Council.
- Establishment of a Youth Council.
- Engaging 'hard to reach' communities.
- Progress with funding bids.
- Initiatives within existing funding, including 'The Portrait Challenge'.
- A 'decolonising the curriculum' petition submitted to the Colfox Academy Trust.
- The future of the Steering Group.

There were no recommendations for the Town Council to consider and the next meeting was scheduled for 10 September 2020.

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

24. OPEN SPACES TASK FORCE

The Town Clerk gave a verbal report on the meeting of 8 September 2020, which had considered:

- The Chairman for the municipal year. Cllr Geoff Ackerman had been elected.
- Social distancing arrangements at the West Bay Welcome Hub. It was expected that the road closure would not continue.
- The potential creation of a charitable trust for the management of land and buildings for community benefit.
- Bridport Green Walking Route, which was open with signage and a supporting leaflet.
- Bridport Sculpture Trail, with sculptures incorporated mainly into the Green Walking Route.
- Work towards new interpretation panels for the Community Orchard and Riverside Gardens.
- Bridport Area Tree Plan, which was now available online.
- Management plans for Jellyfields and Bothenhampton Nature Reserve.

Members discussed the need for volunteers and funding to support management of Jellyfields and Bothenhampton Nature Reserve.

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

25. ROCK FALLS AT LOCAL BEACHES

The Chairman reported on an email received asking whether the Town Council had considered closing East Beach when there was potential for a landslip.

RESOLVED: that the request be noted and no recommendation be made.

26. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

The Chairman reported that Bridport Youth & Community Centre proposed reopening on 14 September, subject to confirmation. It was also proposed to restart the Youth Club on 30 September. Recent Government announcements had however introduced uncertainty.

Cllr Karen Hunt reported that the Museum was preparing for safe reopening at the end of September or early in October, subject to COVID-19 Secure guidance.

27. ISSUES FOR FUTURE REPORTS

No issues for future reports were proposed.

28. UPDATES ON OTHER ONGOING ISSUES/CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk reported that he was working with Roz Copson and others on the production of a leaflet to support those experiencing loneliness. He further asked members to consider the timing of future committee meetings.

Cllr Dave Rickard reported that he had been unaware of a decision to create homeless accommodation at Boldwood House, until he read of Dorset Council's decision in the Bridport News. The Chairman advised that the Cabinet had approved the proposal on 8 September, subject to Government funding.

Members indicated a preference for meetings to start at 7:00pm

Cllr Sarah Carney reported that the issue of a proposed car park at Dorset County Hospital would not be considered by Dorset Council's Northern Area Planning Committee until 18 September. She appealed to fellow councillors to support the proposed development. She also asked about the future of the volunteer group, established to support the community during the lockdown. The Town Clerk said he had engaged in discussions and these were ongoing. She further asked if a link to the Mayor's Blog could be promoted via social media. The Town Clerk advised he would pursue this.

The meeting closed at **7.10pm**.

The next meeting of this committee will be held on 4 November 2020 at 7.00pm