

Minutes of a VIRTUAL meeting (GoToMeeting ID: 567-924-509) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held on Wednesday 4 November 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Kelvin Clayton (Chairman)
Sarah Carney Ros Kayes
Karen Hunt Anne Rickard
Barry Irvine Dave Rickard
Julian Jones

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk)

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the Public Forum.

29. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

31. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 September 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and that the Chairman should sign the minutes at the earliest available opportunity.

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the Environmental Health Manager regarding concerns about the Bridec factory, and was reassured that everything possible was being done.

32. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meetings of the Climate Action Sub Committee of 24 September 2020 and 29 October 2020 be received and the decisions therein adopted.

33. SANDBAGS

The Chairman reported on a suggestion following a Bradpole Parish Council meeting that the Town Council should formalise arrangements for provision of sandbags to other parish councils.

Members discussed the idea and

RESOLVED: that the provision of sandbags be incorporated into the Lengthsman Scheme, on condition that:

- (i) There is no cost to the Town Council;

- (ii) Sufficient additional supplies can be obtained to serve the surrounding parishes and meet their requirements; and
- (iii) Households be advised to keep sand bags for future needs, or if not needed that sand bags be reclaimed.

34. PROJECT UPDATES

Consideration was given to a paper from Cllr Julian Jones, ENCL: 3553.

The Town Clerk updated members on the following projects:

- Access & Movement Study. Dorset Council was collating and analysing existing traffic and pedestrian data, including health check data from 2019. A draft brief for an Access & Movement Study would be developed by the Town Centre Working Group and technical support would be provided by consultants. Members considered a paper from Cllr Julian Jones, ENCL: 3553, containing proposals.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Jones paper be considered when drafting the brief for the Access & Movement Study.

- Bridport Sculpture Trail. Six Sculptures were in place with interpretation panels. Five were on the green walking route, and a sixth on the lawn at Mountfield. The Council's website had been updated with photos and information about the sculptures. The Council had agreed a budget of £5,000 per annum for the trail, which allows for changes and additions over time.
- New Zealand Pond. This project, which sought to promote biodiversity and wildlife habitats, dated back some time and there was now an opportunity to take it forward. Consent Forms had been submitted to Environment Agency for works to create an overflow pond. The outdoor team would provide operational support.
- Interpretation Panels. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer was working on a commission to produce interpretation panel for the Community Orchard and Riverside Gardens. He was working with the Community Orchard Group and was seeking member involvement in the panel for Riverside Gardens.

RESOLVED: that the Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer and the Chairman agree the design for an interpretation panel at Riverside Gardens under delegation.

- Verge Adoptions. The outdoor team was working to clear areas suitable for maintenance by the community, and discussions were under way.

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

35. DORSET COUNCIL CLIMATE EMERGENCY STRATEGY CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a update from Dorset Council, ENCL: 3554.

The Town Clerk summarised the report that invited the Council to respond to a Dorset Council consultation on its recently-published draft Climate Emergency Strategy and associated action plans. He asked members to consider a process for agreeing a response.

Members discussed the invitation and

RESOLVED: that comments be invited from councillors for collation by the Chairman of the Climate Action Sub Committee, and consideration at the next meeting of the Sub Committee.

Members were encouraged to consider individual responses.

36. BRIDPORT RIGHTS RESPECTING TOWN STEERING GROUP

Members considered the work of the Steering Group, and in particular its recent project partnership with the Lyric Theatre.

Cllr Anne Rickard advised that the group was to be disbanded and re-formed.

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting of the Rights Respecting Steering Group held on 10 September 2020 be noted.

37. BRIDPORT YOUTH FORUM

The Town Clerk and Mayor updated members on the work of a stakeholder group set up to look at how best to engage young people in the work of the Council and the community. A first meeting had considered some interesting ideas and another meeting would follow.

Members discussed:

- The need for consultations to give young people equal rights given their future stake in proposals.
- Youth involvement in the emerging Community Land Trust.

The Mayor invited members to send further ideas to him.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

38. JELLYFIELDS AND BOTHENHAMPTON NATURE RESERVES

Consideration was given to the final draft management plans, ENCL: 3556 and ENCL: 3557. The Town Clerk reported that consultations on the management plans was undertaken during summer 2020. Final draft plans needed to be approved by Bridport Town Council and Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council. The land was in Dorset Council's ownership and the intention was that it would transfer to the Town Council for management on behalf of the Parish Council. The proposed transfer included a sum to support maintenance. Grant funding and contributions from the Parish Council under the Lengthsman Scheme would be required so that the land could be maintained at no cost to BTC. A meeting with the Forestry Commission had established significant work to be done on Ash Dieback at Bothenhampton Nature Reserve. A grant for tree management advice on this issue had been applied for. The outcome of this work might lead to a need to reconsider the terms for the land transfer.

Members welcomed the two management plans as thorough and professional, and stressed the need for costs to be covered.

RESOLVED: that the management plans for Jellyfields and Bothenhampton Nature Reserve be approved.

39. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from outside bodies.

40. FUTURE REPORTS

RESOLVED: that Plastic Free Bridport be considered at a future meeting of the committee.

41. CORRESPONDENCE AND UPDATES

The Town Clerk updated members on the immediate consequences of the second national lockdown announced by the Government. Remembrance events would be scaled back, the market would run with essential stalls only, and staff would work from home except where this was not possible. The community bus would continue to run.

The meeting closed at **8.02pm**.

The next meeting of this committee will be held on 6 January 2021