

## ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a VIRTUAL meeting (GoToMeeting ID: 425-784-053) of the CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held on Thursday 28 January 2021 at 11.00am.

PRESENT Cllr    Rose Allwork                      Karen Hunt  
                         Ian Bark                                 Dave Rickard  
                         Kelvin Clayton

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk), Daryl Chambers (Town Surveyor, from minute 40) and David Dixon (Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer).

### PUBLIC FORUM

No issues were raised at the Public Forum.

### **36. APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received.

### **37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **38. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting of the committee held on 17 December 2020 be agreed and signed by the Chairman at the earliest practicable opportunity.

### **39. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3587.

The Chair advised that she had worked with the Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer to set out some action plan priorities for the sub committee. She considered Mountfield should be a high priority.

Members discussed:

- Green grants, which was a later agenda item.
- Green procurement. The Town Clerk advised this would be considered at the next meeting.
- Scheduling of climate smart initiatives. The Chair advised this matter needed further discussion.
- Implementing 'quick win' actions that make an immediate difference.
- The need for priorities to indicate the time taken to deliver, to establish a workable timeline.
- Actions that were already part of the council's work such as public engagement, although it was considered that more should be done to engage the community beyond those with a pre-existing interest in the climate emergency.

- Commissioning others to carry out actions, for example a repair shop. The Clerk reminded members of the Community Shed as a potential option.
- A leaflet drop to raise awareness. The Clerk advised that this could be done, as had happened for the Neighbourhood Plan referendum and the Covid Helpline. Indicative costs were £800 if confined to Bridport parish.
- The idea of a citizens' assembly. There was some reticence to take this forward as an online initiative as it was not fully accessible, but could be planned for later in the year. Extinction Rebellion was identified as a source of information. Plottingham and the Access & Movement Study could be useful as topics for engagement.
- Resource limitations and the pressure of new initiatives coming forward over and above those identified in the Climate Emergency Action Plan and the Town Council Plan.
- Spreading awareness among all councillors to avoid duplicating or marginalising knowledge.
- The capacity to deliver.

RESOLVED: that the Chair and Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer will review priorities taking account of the sub committee discussion, and add a timeline.

#### 40. **GREEN GRANTS**

The Chairman introduced the idea of a grants scheme funded from the Climate Emergency Reserve. The amount available could be affected by the costs of environmental improvements at Mountfield. An open discussion was invited.

Members considered:

- Whether this might be a means of engaging the public as well as environmentally beneficial.
- Whether the Town Council was the appropriate body to act as a funding stream. Dorset Community Action and Low Carbon Dorset were identified as examples of the main funding sources.
- The Town Council's two existing grants schemes, and whether these could be used to promote environmental projects, with the funds potentially supplemented from the Climate Emergency reserve.
- Whether the existing schemes could specify the green aspect to a greater extent. The Clerk advised that Best Value & Scrutiny Sub Committee had considered the community grants scheme guidance to applicants and had not recommended changes in this respect. The conditions were however reviewed annually.
- The potential for a competition for the most innovative decarbonising project.
- Using grants as 'kick start' funds for green initiatives, for example solar energy, tree planting or transport.
- Small grants to enable promotion, for example to Plastic Free Bridport who needed £200 for a newsletter.
- The use of grant funding to encourage a repair shop such as a cycle refurbishment/repair café.
- The promotion of specific ideas that could attract Town Council financial support, as a means of attracting projects that meet the Council's priorities.
- The potential to work with Low Carbon Dorset on a funding initiative.

- Using funding as a means of challenging people to act and take responsibility for addressing the climate emergency.
- Engagement with community organisations such as Bridport Business Chamber.
- The capacity of Town Council staff to deliver and maintain a separate funding scheme.
- The good example set by Bridport Bandits, working on cars and bikes. This was identified as a model that could be built on.
- Using a one-off funding scheme as a means of bringing forward innovative ideas.

RESOLVED: that:

- (i) A competition be investigated further, with a funding allocation to be considered once the costs of environmental works at Mountfield become clearer.
- (ii) The Chair will discuss a competition, and grant criteria, with the Chairs of Best Value Sub Committee and Finance & General Purposes Committee.
- (iii) Members should consider how a competition might work, and forward ideas to the Chair.

The Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer advised that he would factor this initiative into the work on priorities, with a view to launching at the end of the year.

#### **41. CARBON BUDGET**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3588. .

The Town Clerk summarised the report, advising that alongside the financial budget, the Council now produced a carbon budget. The figures would act as a baseline for future years' comparisons. He thanked David Dixon and Steven Yarde for their hard work in collecting, analysing and presenting the information. Members were asked to note the carbon budget and consider any implications.

Members discussed:

- Mountfield as the main target for emission reductions, with cost figures due by April.
- Fugitive emissions, and the challenge of measuring these.
- Whether a carbon reduction target and timeline was needed, to conform to the overall target of net zero by 2030.
- The need for a reporting schedule.
- The inclusion of power generation in the budget.
- The challenge of identifying funds for vehicle replacement.

The Chair thanked all involved for drafting the carbon budget.

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

#### **42. COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES ON OTHER ISSUES**

The Town Clerk reported that:

- Slides from a presentation by the Centre for Sustainable Energy would be circulated to members; and

- A proposed light rail initiative would be considered at the next Full Council meeting.

Cllr Dave Rickard reported that the Government was considering reversing a ban on nicotinoids. He would raise this at a meeting with the MP.

**43. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED: that the next sub committee meeting will take place on Thursday 25 February at 11am.

The meeting closed at 12.26pm.