

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a VIRTUAL meeting (GoToMeeting ID: 950-105-869) of the CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held on Thursday 25 February 2021 at 11.00am.

PRESENT Cllr Rose Allwork Karen Hunt (from 12.03pm, minute 49)
Ian Bark Dave Rickard
Kelvin Clayton

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk), Daryl Chambers (Town Surveyor, from minute 47), David Dixon (Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer) and Paul Fuszard (Finance and Office Manager).

PUBLIC FORUM

No issues were raised at the Public Forum.

44. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Karen Hunt who had advised she would attend sometime after the start of the meeting.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

46. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting of the committee held on 28 January 2021 be agreed and signed by the Chairman at the earliest practicable opportunity.

47. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES

The Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer summarised a report circulated with the agenda, ENCL: 3591, setting out refined action plan priorities and timings. He thanked Cllr Ian Bark for his input to the revisions.

Members discussed:

- The format of a 'green grants' scheme. The Chairman advised this would be brought forward for discussion at the July meeting.

The Town Surveyor joined the meeting at this point

- Delivery dates for actions, which in some cases would need to be added following initial planning and discussion.
- Inconsistencies between the action plan and accompanying timeline. The Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer advised he would cross-refer the two to align them.
- Further work required to arrive at the key priorities.

RESOLVED: that members should communicate their views on key priorities to the Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer.

48. ETHICAL INVESTMENT AND PROCUREMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3592, setting out the legislative requirements and options for incorporating a greater emphasis on ethics in investment and procurement policy.

Members considered:

- The constraints placed on investments by legislation requiring narrow definitions of security and liquidity to be followed.
- The importance of cash flow considerations.
- Flexibility to look beyond the main high street banks.
- The need to engage the Environment & Social Wellbeing Committee in a definition of ethics, as this would extend beyond the sub committee's climate emergency remit.
- Detailed draft investment criteria tabled as part of the report by Cllr Ian Bark.
- Whether a preferred supplier list could help to ensure that ethical suppliers were prioritised.
- Potential criteria for procurement including sustainability, local businesses, plastic free status, Rights Respecting, living wage employers and a slavery statement.

RESOLVED: that the Environment & Social Wellbeing Committee be asked to consider establishing a definition of ethics, and that the matter be considered by the Best Value & Scrutiny Sub Committee and Finance & General Purposes Committee in reviewing the Council's Investment Strategy and Financial Regulations.

49. PREPARATION FOR NEXT MEETING

The Chairman reported that representatives of relevant local organisations were scheduled to be invited to the next meeting to discuss housing, and climate smart initiatives. The meeting would also consider the Town Council's role in supporting projects to address fuel poverty.

Members considered:

- The engagement of a 'carbon champion' to provide information and act as a catalyst for change.

Cllr Karen Hunt joined the meeting at this point

- Learning from a previous Transition Town Bridport initiative and support from Low Carbon Dorset in developing energy advice for the local community.
- Possible invitees for the next meeting, including Low Carbon Dorset, a small business representative, Bridport Area Community Housing.
- Whether a business liaison should be considered separately with Bridport Business Chamber.
- Distinct focuses on supply to establish what is available in terms of support, and demand for grants and support.
- Links with the draft Local Plan with reference to retro fitting.
- A concern that Government support was mainly through larger companies.

RESOLVED: that the Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer will draft a plan for the next meeting, to include potential invitees.

50. COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES ON OTHER ISSUES

The Town Surveyor reported that proposals for The Old Dairy Site are progressing, with various local organisations in mind including the Museum, who are greatly in need of storage facilities. A steel framed building, which could incorporate solar panels and heat source pumps, worked up as a partnership based approach, could provide a grant assisted flag ship type building with wide community benefit, built in the most sustainable way possible.

Cllr Ian Bark reported on the online showing of the film “The Story of Plastic” and an associated question and answer session attended by Chris Loder MP.

51. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: that the next sub committee meeting will take place on Thursday 25 March 2021 at 11.00am.

The meeting closed at 12.23pm.