

Minutes of a VIRTUAL meeting (GoToMeeting ID: 576-962-357) of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held on Wednesday 10 March 2021 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Kelvin Clayton (Chairman)

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| Ian Bark | Ros Kayes |
| Sarah Carney | Anne Rickard |
| Karen Hunt | Dave Rickard |
| Barry Irvine | Steve Williams |

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Rose Allwork, Will Austin (Town Clerk) and one representative of the press.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no contributions to the Public Forum.

52. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

54. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 January 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and that the Chairman should sign the minutes at the earliest available opportunity.

55. CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meetings of the Climate Action Sub Committee held on 28 January 2021 and 25 February 2021 be received and adopted.

56. OPEN SPACES TASK FORCE

The Town Clerk reported on discussions at a meeting of the Open Spaces Task Force on 9 March 2021. There were no recommendations forthcoming and the meeting had received updates on:

- Plottingham Skate Park and Playing Fields
- Solar Car Ports
- The Old Dairy Site
- Asset Transfers
- Bus Station
- Graffiti Project
- North Mills Play Area
- East Street Toilets
- Discovery Centre Pathway
- Sunny Days Building

- New Zealand Pond
- Wellfields Drive/Acer Avenue Community Project
- Pedestrian/cycle access proposals for the Bridport Gateway development.

Members discussed:

- A request that Cllr Sarah Carney be contacted by the Town Surveyor in respect of a proposed mural for the A35 underpass;
- The need for repair of a bench at Park Road, and for other benches currently being repaired to be reinstated;
- Potential occupants for a community building at the Old Dairy Site. This issue would be brought forward for member approval at the appropriate time; and
- The need to consider the impact of Covid-19 on the long term costs of managing public toilets.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Town Clerk on a meeting of the Open Spaces Task Force held on 9 March 2021 be received and noted.

57. ETHICAL INVESTMENT AND PROCUREMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3602. The Town Clerk introduced this item, asking members to consider a measurable definition of the term 'ethical' that could be adopted as council policy, for recommendation to Finance & General Purposes Committee and Full Council. The purposes discussed by members to date had been for investments and procurement, but a definition could further be applied to other decisions. An agreed and measurable definition would greatly assist officers in delegated decision-making and in bringing forward matters for member consideration. The Chairman advised that he had drafted a definition for consideration and this was tabled for consideration.

Members discussed the following:

- Text proposed by Cllr Sarah Carney for inclusion in the Investment Strategy. This would be considered by Finance & General Purposes Committee on 15 March 2021.
- Whether the definition should be more or less detailed than that tabled.
- The advantages of a 'scoring' matrix included in the report of the Town Clerk.
- Whether habitat and species should be directly referred to in the matrix.
- A desire to ensure that both local and global impacts were incorporated.

RECOMMEND: that the following be adopted as the Council's Ethical Decisions Policy:

In the context of Bridport Town Council, ethical decisions and behaviour are those which, when undertaken by either council employees or elected councillors, avoids harm and enhances the wellbeing of Bridport residents in their role as global citizens.

This wellbeing has many dimensions, including, but not limited to:

- Economic wellbeing
- Social wellbeing
- Physical and mental health
- Legal & regulatory obligations
- Climatic and environmental consequences
- Human Rights enhancement

- The wellbeing of other global citizens and future generations

There will be occasions when two or more of these dimensions appear to be in conflict. On such occasions, the person acting will need to make a balanced judgement as to the greater good.

The ethical decision matrix highlights the most obvious considerations when considering investment or procurement decisions.

RECOMMEND: that the Ethical Decision Matrix be adopted for use as tabled, subject to the first question reading “Will the decision have a negative impact on vulnerable people, locally and/or globally?”

58. BRIDPORT LIVING AND LEARNING HUB

Cllr Rose Allwork reported on an idea for a ‘hub’ venue for a range of community activities. She noted the vast number of local community groups, some of which were not as accessible or engaged with the town as others. A publicly accessible hub, possibly a vacant town centre venue, would provide a way of bringing together groups within the community to engage in activities for people of all ages, and to act as a drop-in facility. Cllr Allwork noted that there were empty properties that could be used and asked members to consider the idea.

Members discussed:

- The need for a venue that was welcoming and fully accessible;
- A previously considered initiative for a ‘library of things’;
- The LETS system that had been in existence in Bridport for 25 years and could be engaged along with the Community Shed;
- The potential for incorporating this idea into the approach used with other buildings under Town Council control, offering space for tenancies;
- A preference for such a facility to be run by the community, rather than by the Town Council;
- The opportunity presented by such a facility to better co-ordinate community activities that were already available in Bridport;
- The benefits in terms of addressing loneliness and providing a place to chat;
- The potential for the Mayor to be a catalyst for a community project;
- Possible involvement of the volunteer group that has been supporting the Covid effort, should this fit with their plans for the future; and
- The need for an outline strategy or business plan, which Cllr Allwork advised she would draft.

RESOLVED: that subject to provision of an outline strategy or business plan, this matter be considered at the next meeting of the committee.

59. GREEN FORTNIGHT

Cllr Dave Rickard reported that:

- Green Fortnight would not be able to proceed in March and April as usually happened, due to Covid;
- The organisers hoped to bring forward ideas from the largely cancelled 2020 events, with a focus on fashion and how to engage people in becoming more carbon aware; and
- A hope that the events could proceed in September 2021 or thereabouts.

The Town Clerk advised that many event organisers were considering August and September 2021 as proposed dates and that the Town Surveyor and Tourist Information Centre Manager were engaged in co-ordination to avoid clashes.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

60. COVID-19 – RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr Sarah Carney had raised with him ways in which the support offered by community groups during Covid-19 could be recognised. In discussion with officers, the idea of combining a celebratory event with the Community Fair had been considered.

Cllr Carney advised a preference for an outdoor event at Mountfield, and a permanent memorial. The Chairman offered his support for the idea.

Cllr Ian Bark reported that he had visited many businesses recently, to collect stories of how they had supported the community, for a blog post he was drafting. He highlighted two examples: One was a café that was unable to donate perishable foodstuffs to the Food Bank, and so instead had given vouchers for use at the café. The other was a flower shop that had provided free flowers for funerals, where there would otherwise have been no flowers.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should liaise with officers to link a proposed recognition of the work of community groups during Covid-19, with the Community Fair event.

61. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

The Chairman reported that the Bridport Youth & Community Centre was planning to reopen on 19 April 2021.

RESOLVED: that the reports from outside bodies be noted.

62. COMMUNICATIONS AND FUTURE REPORTS

The Town Clerk reported that:

- The Tourist Information Centre was due to reopen on 12 April 2021;
- Bridport Market would include non-essential stalls from 14 April;
- West Bay Car Boot Sale would resume on 18 April;
- Hire of Council facilities was to resume from 17 May;
- Physical Council meetings could resume from 21 June, or earlier if current discussions about the law on virtual Council meetings required it; and
- Staff working from home would return, as needed, to support the changes.

The meeting closed at **8.44pm**.

The next meeting of this Committee will be held on 9 June 2021