

Minutes of a VIRTUAL meeting (GoToMeeting: 682-976-613) of
BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL held on Tuesday 19 January 2021 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Ian Bark – Town Mayor (in the Chair)

Cllr	Geoffrey Ackerman	Ros Kayes
	Rose Allwork	Gill Massey
	Dave Bolwell	Maggie Ray
	Sarah Carney	Martin Ray
	Kelvin Clayton	Anne Rickard
	Karen Hunt	Dave Rickard
	Barry Irvine	Sarah Williams
	Julian Jones	Steve Williams

ALSO PRESENT Ten members of the public, one representative of the press, Daryl Chambers (Town Surveyor), Paul Fuszard (Finance & Office Manager), Terri Foxwell (Tourist Information Centre Manager) and Will Austin (Town Clerk).

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

The Mayor announced with sadness the death of Sir Brian Urquhart, a Bridport-born British diplomat who played a key role in the establishment of the United Nations and its peacekeeping operations. A short video reflecting on his career was presented.

The Mayor reported that 2021 marked 100 years since Agnes Suttill became the first woman councillor to sit on the then Bridport Borough Council.

Local Food

Sam Wilberforce Jay Anderson, Joe Burlington, Kathy Dare, Candida Dunford-Wood, Raja Jarrah, Rachel Millson, Sam Wilberforce, Sarah Wilberforce and Peter Wilson were all in virtual attendance and updated members regarding various aspects of local food provision, and the work of local organisations including the Bridport Glut Stall and Edible Garden, Bridport Community Fridge, and Seeding Our Future.

A discussion considered:

- Ways of engaging the community in local food issues, including a possible Citizens' Assembly;
- Engagement with the Citizens' Advice Bureau;
- Support for local food and drink businesses; and
- Encouraging cooking over prepared food purchase.

The Mayor thanked those members of the public for their input.

45. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllr Sandra Brown.

46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All previously recorded interests declared in committee minutes were noted.

47. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that subject to the addition of Cllrs Maggie and Martin Ray as attendees, the minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2020 be confirmed as a correct record, and that the Town Mayor should sign the minutes at the earliest available opportunity.

48. STANDING ORDER 14(b)

There were no questions pursuant to Standing Order 14(b).

49. COMMITTEES

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 23 November 2020 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Dave Bolwell.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 23 November 2020 be received and adopted.

(b) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 4 January 2021 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Dave Bolwell.

It was noted that these minutes should begin on page 24 and not page 23, as stated.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 4 January 2021 be received and adopted.

(c) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 11 January 2021 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Maggie Ray.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 11 January 2021 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted, as set out below: -

(Minute 53) FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2020/2021 – 3rd REVISION

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that the 3rd revision of the estimates for the year 2020/2021

be approved.

(Minute 54) BUDGET AND ESTIMATES 2021/2022

Members discussed the proposed budget and precept recommendation from the Committee.

Members commented on the considerations set out in the report and the Committee minutes, including in particular:

- The impact of the proposed precept on Council Tax;
- Local inequalities in Council Tax and the impact of residents in adjoining parishes using Town Council services;
- The importance of reminding residents of the wide extent of the Town Council's work;
- The impact of housing growth outside the parish boundary; and
- The need for a law change to ensure that an element of business rates be paid to the Town Council.

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried unanimously, as follows:

- RESOLVED:
- (a) that the draft estimates for 2021/22 be approved as attached in Appendix A.
 - (b) that the proposed fees and charges for 2021/22 be approved as set out in Appendix B.
 - (c) that the Medium Term Financial Plan be approved as a guide for future years, as in Appendix C, noting that each year's budget will be subject to separate approval.
 - (d) that the draft capital programme and proposed use of reserves for 2021/22 and future years be approved, as set out in section 4 of the report and at Appendix D.
 - (e) that in terms of the precept, Option 3 be approved, as set out in section 12 of the report, which increases the precept by £10,000 to raise £728,341.

The annual Band 'D' charge to increase from £238.82 to £242.76 (1.65%).

(Minute 57) REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT AND APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2021/22

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

- RESOLVED: that the existing internal audit arrangements continue for 2021/22.

(Minute 58) RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT: ANNUAL REVIEW

The recommendation, after being moved and seconded, was put to the vote, declared to be carried and

RESOLVED: that the Risk Assessment and Risk Management Policy document be approved, as attached to the Committee report.

(d) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 6 January 2021 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Kelvin Clayton.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 6 January 2021 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted, as set out below: -

(Minute 46) TREE PLANTING SCHEMES

RESOLVED: that Bridport Town Council accepts liability for the management of trees planted by the residents group at Wellfields Drive/Acer Avenue, subject to agreement with the group and Dorset Council on the appropriate types of trees.

50. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR, DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL 2021/2022

The Town Clerk reported that the following nominations had been received:

Town Mayor – Cllr Ian Bark
Proposed by Cllr Dave Rickard and seconded by Cllr Gill Massey.

Deputy Town Mayor – Cllr Sarah Williams
Proposed by Cllr Anne Rickard and seconded by Cllr Martin Ray.

Leader of the Council - Cllr Dave Rickard
Proposed by Cllr Sarah Williams and seconded by Cllr Maggie Ray.

No further nominations had been received.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council's preferred candidates for the positions of Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and Leader of the Council for 2021/22 be approved as listed above, to go forward to the Annual Town Council meeting (Mayor Making), where the elections to these positions shall take place.

51. MOTION SUBMITTED BY CLLR ROSE ALLWORK

Cllr Allwork presented the following motion: -

'Bridport Town Council notes that the chair of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Reparations Commission has called on Richard Drax, MP for South Dorset, as the recent inheritor of Drax Hall Estate, an historical slave plantation in Barbados, to pay reparation to people of Barbados and Jamaica, where his family were slaveholders for 200 years.

As a Rights Respecting Town, Bridport entirely supports this initiative and considers it a moral duty of all governments, individuals and organisations who historically benefited from the enslavement and genocide of African people in the Caribbean, to engage with CARICOM in their struggle for justice for the victims of slavery and their descendants.

Bridport Town Council calls on Mr Drax to acknowledge, and apologise for, the historical role of his family in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and to enter into a constructive discussion with CARICOM Reparations Committee on the subject of reparation.

Bridport Town Council further resolves to add our signatures to the open letter drafted by Stand Up to Racism Dorset, calling on Mr Drax to return Drax Hall Estate in Barbados to the people of that nation, for the benefit of Barbadians and the people of the Caribbean region.'

Members discussed the issue and it was

RESOLVED: that the motion be approved.

52. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

RESOLVED: that the next Open Public Forum subject be decided at a later date.

53. COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were reported for information:

- (1) The Town Mayor reported his list of engagements, ENCL: 3584, and email correspondence, including the Youth Covid Support Fund.
- (2) The Leader of the Council reported that the recent meeting with the MP regarding funding support and that the group of travellers who had spent some time in two locations in West Bay had moved on.
- (3) The Town Clerk reported that:
 - works were ongoing in Bucky Doo Square;
 - 350 letters were due to be sent the following day to those identified as most in need during Covid, reminding them of the local support available during lockdown.
 - Staff at Mountfield and the Tourist Information Centre were mainly working from home, whilst outdoor, cemetery and market staff were operating normally. He thanked all staff for adapting to these difficult circumstances.

- Congratulations were due to the Tourist Information Centre staff on reaching the finals of the Dorset Tourism awards, and to all staff involved in the nomination of West Bay Play Area, which was also a finalist.

The meeting closed at **8.43pm**

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 30 March 2021