

Minutes of a VIRTUAL meeting (GoToMeeting: 473-116-661) of
BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL held on Tuesday 30 March 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: Michael Hancock (Bridport Renewal Alliance), Nigel Ewens (Bridport Renewal Alliance), 4 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

Bridport Rail Renewal Project

Michael Hancock and Nigel Ewens presented on behalf of the Bridport Renewal Alliance, on proposals for rail renewal.

A discussion considered:

- The proposed route
- The estimated cost of the proposals, said to be between £75m and £100m
- The viability and sustainability of a reinstated rail service
- Other consequential benefits for the economy and local transport
- The acquisition of land for the route
- Cost benefit analysis and a feasibility study
- Comparisons with alternative measures such as public transport
- Other agencies to be engaged in the initiative

The Mayor thanked Michael and Nigel for their presentation, and advised that the matter would be considered further at a future meeting.

54. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllrs Dave Bolwell, Sandra Brown and Ros Kayes.

55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest by councillors, and interests declared at committee meetings were noted in the minutes of those meetings.

56. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2021 be confirmed as a correct record, and that the Town Mayor should sign the minutes at the earliest available opportunity.

57. STANDING ORDER 14(b)

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

58. COMMITTEES

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 25 January 2021 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Dave Bolwell.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 25 January 2021 be received and adopted.

(b) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 22 February 2021 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Dave Bolwell.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 22 February 2021 be received and adopted.

(c) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 22 March 2021 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Dave Bolwell.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 22 March 2021 be received and adopted.

(d) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 15 March 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 15 March 2021 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted, as set out below: -

(Minute 38) COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

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

RESOLVED: (1) that a Working Group of members be established to

consider the community governance review; and

(2) that the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Full Council should consider the membership of the working group, and that Cllrs Ian Bark, Sarah Williams, Julian Jones, Maggie Ray, Martin Ray, Anne Rickard and Dave Rickard be agreed as members.

(Minute 68) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

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

RESOLVED: (1) 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 Council's ethical decision matrix highlights the most obvious considerations when considering decisions.

and

(2) that the Ethical Decision Matrix be adopted for use, as shown at Appendix 1 to these minutes.

(Minute 71) BRIDPORT COMMUNITY CHARITY

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

RESOLVED: that delegated authority be granted to the Town Clerk to proceed with the creation of a charity, subject to an upper limit on costs of £1,000 and any decisions of significance, such as the governance structure, being referred to members for approval.

(Minute 73) INVESTMENT STRATEGY

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

RESOLVED: that the Investment Strategy and scoring matrix be agreed as shown at Appendix 2 to these minutes.

- (e) **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**
The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 24 March 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 24 March 2021 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted, as set out below: -

- (f) **ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 10 March 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 10 March 2021 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted, as set out below: -

(Minute 57) **ETHICAL INVESTMENT AND PROCUREMENT**

RESOLVED: As per minute 68(1) of Finance & General Purposes Committee 15 March 2021 above.

(Minute 57) **ETHICAL INVESTMENT AND PROCUREMENT**

RESOLVED: As per minute 68(2) of Finance & General Purposes Committee 15 March 2021 above.

59. MOTION SUBMITTED BY CLLR ROSE ALLWORK AND CLLR KELVIN CLAYTON

Cllr Rose Allwork proposed and Cllr Kelvin Clayton seconded the following motion:

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK and around the world.

Without more significant and sustained action, the world is set to exceed the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit between 2030 and 2040. Therefore the current UK target of net zero by 2050 is not satisfactory. It is too little, too late.

Bridport Town Council notes that:

- (i) This council has declared a climate and ecological emergency.
- (ii) There is a Bill before Parliament—the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (published as the “Climate and Ecology Bill”)—according to which the Government must develop an emergency strategy that:
 - (a) requires that the UK plays its fair and proper role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with limiting global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial temperatures;
 - (b) ensures that all the UK's consumption emissions are accounted for;
 - (c) includes emissions from aviation and shipping;
 - (d) protects and restores biodiverse habitats along overseas supply chains;
 - (e) restores and regenerates the UK's depleted soils, wildlife habitats and species populations to healthy and robust states, maximising their capacity to absorb CO₂ and their resistance to climate heating;
 - (f) sets up an independent Citizens' Assembly, representative of the UK's population, to engage with Parliament and Government and help develop the emergency strategy.

Council therefore resolves to:

- (iii) Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill;
- (iv) Inform the local media of this decision;
- (v) Write to the MP for West Dorset, asking them to support the Bill;
- (vi) Write to the CEE Bill Alliance, the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, expressing its support (campaign@ceebill.uk).

Members discussed the issue and it was

RESOLVED: that the motion be approved.

60. DORSET COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT

Cllr Kelvin Clayton reported that the Dorset Council annual meeting would now be held on 4 May 2021. Cllr Sarah Williams reported that NALC and the LGA were talking to Government to seek a continuation of virtual meetings. Cllr Williams further reported that a first meeting of a parking review stakeholder meeting had taken place and a second was scheduled for early April.

RESOLVED: that the reports be noted.

61. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

RESOLVED: that the next Public Open Forum subject be “Feedback on community support during Covid-19”, and that relevant stakeholders be invited to attend.

62. REPORTS BACK FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from external bodies.

63. AGNES SUTTILL AND OTHER HERITAGE MATTERS

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3608, setting out options to commemorate the centenary of the election of Mrs Agnes Suttill as Bridport's first female councillor.

Members discussed:

- Links with the Rights Respecting initiative and other Council policies;
- Capacity to deliver proposed events and activities;
- The cost of the proposals;
- Other prominent figures that could also be commemorated by a heritage trail.

Having expressed support for the proposals, members

RESOLVED: that Cllr Karen Hunt should lead the project and that a further report be provided to Finance & General Purposes Committee in June 2021.

64. COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were reported for information:

- (1) The Town Mayor reported his list of engagements, ENCL: 3609.
- (2) The Leader of the Council reported that he was engaging with the Bridport Business Awards to provide a video in support of the Council's sponsorship of the environmental award.
- (3) The Town Clerk reported that he was developing options for the restoration of physical meetings following the Government's announcement that legislation allowing virtual meetings would not be extended beyond 7 May 2021.

The meeting closed at **8.54pm**

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 22 June 2021

The Annual Council (Mayor Making) will be held on 13 May 2021