

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday 27 May 2021 at 11.00am.

PRESENT Cllr Rose Allwork Karen Hunt
 Ian Bark Dave Rickard

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

PUBLIC FORUM

No issues were raised at the Public Forum.

67. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Kelvin Clayton,

68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

69. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting of the sub committee held on 29 April 2021 be agreed and signed by the Chairman.

70. FUEL POVERTY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Consideration was given to a report, ENCL: 3617.

The Chair introduced a follow up on the discussion at previous meetings regarding healthy homes. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer summarised a summary note ENCL: 3617 that set out possible objectives, targets, actions and partners for a project to support people in improving energy efficiency in homes. Members were asked to consider the note, and whether the Town Council should seek to deliver the project or provide funding to a partner organisation to lead, such as Transition Town Bridport (TTB), Dorset Community Energy, and the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

Members considered:

- Possible sources of funding, including Awards for All.
- The challenges associated with engaging local installers in the project.
- The limited capacity and expertise of TTB, which suggested they could be a partner but may not be able to deliver 'on the ground'. It was noted that TTB was shown as the lead organisation for this project, in the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Dave Rickard advised he would take this up with TTB.
- A possible Town Council role in identifying sources of advice and suppliers, and possibly providing funding.

- Bridging the gap between volunteer support and professional activity. Salford was identified as a possible source of information. A helpline and engagement at events was suggested as a possible approach rather than door-knocking, with home visits by prior appointment.
- Concerns about obstacles to encouraging take-up of home visits by advisers.
- A key message to residents about taking on board the climate emergency and acting individually.
- Whether a person should be engaged to drive the project forward, and if so whether this should be as an employee or on a contracted basis.
- Engagement of other partner organisations such as Magna Housing Ltd, whom it was noted were keen to be involved but would not run the project.
- The need to engage 'hard to reach' parts of the community.
- The need for a brief as the basis for engaging a lead person or organisation.
- The 'solar streets' initiative, which it was suggested should be considered separately.

RESOLVED: that a brief be developed for a contract for coordination and delivery of the initiative, to be taken forward under delegation to the Chairman and the Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer.

RESOLVED: that subject to approval by the Finance & General Purposes Committee, up to £10,000 be allocated in support of the project from the Climate Emergency Reserve, to cover any shortfall in external funding.

71. ACCESS & MOVEMENT STUDY

The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer reported that the Study was reaching a conclusion. Two Town Centre Working Group meetings had considered problems, key findings and options ranging from an incremental approach to change, through more ambitious measures to encourage modal shift, to radical transformation. The outcomes of the Study would be used to support future projects, and early findings had already been shared with Highways England and WSP in relation to proposed improvements to the A35.

Members discussed:

- The importance of measures to address climate change and pollution.
- The timescales for completion of the Study. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer advised that Planning Committee was expected to consider the final report on 28 June, following which it would be submitted for inclusion in Dorset Council's Local Transport Plan review, to support bids for government funding.
- The scope for amelioration and a greener, cleaner town centre.
- How the views of the sub committee could be incorporated into the discussion at Planning Committee.

RESOLVED: that the Chair should draft a representation to the Planning Committee setting out the views expressed by sub committee members.

72. COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES ON OTHER ISSUES

The Town Clerk reminded members that the Annual Town Meeting was to be held at 7pm that evening.

The Chair reported on a proposed campaign event by Extinction Rebellion in respect of the G7 Summit in June. A cycle ride to Carbis Bay as part of the campaign would travel through Bridport and it was hoped the town would offer welcome, by offering a venue and attendance by the Mayor.

73. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: that the next sub committee meeting will take place on Thursday 24 June 2021 at 11.00am.

Cllr Ian Bark confirmed his apologies for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.22pm.