

Minutes of the meeting of the FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Monday 14 June 2021 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Cllr: Maggie Ray (Chairman from minute 2)

Cllrs: Geoffrey Ackerman	Gill Massey
Rose Allwork	Martin Ray
Karen Hunt	Anne Rickard
Julian Jones	Sarah Williams

Also in attendance: Cllrs Dave Bolwell, Sarah Carney, Kelvin Clayton and Dave Rickard (ex-officio), Will Austin (Town Clerk), Daryl Chambers (Town Surveyor), Paul Fuszard (Finance and Office Manager) and Terri Foxwell (TIC Manager).

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED: that Cllr Maggie Ray be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year 2021/22.

Cllr Maggie Ray took the chair.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

No members of the public spoke at the Public Forum.

**2. APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Gill Massey was nominated and seconded. Following a vote, it was

RESOLVED: that Cllr Gill Massey be elected Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year 2021/22.

**5. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 March 2021 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**6. BEST VALUE AND SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 8 June 2021 be received and the resolutions therein be adopted.

RESOLVED: that the recommendation in respect of the Annual Accounts be considered under item 8 (Annual Accounts – Year Ending 31 March 2021).

## **7. THE BANK OF DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES**

Nick Goldsmith of the creative charity The Bank of Dreams and Nightmares gave a presentation. He described the initiative as a creative writing workshop for young people, working with schools, volunteers and the community. It was based on a model already in existence in the United States. Nick hoped to secure the former Barclays Bank premises and to use banking as a theme, with stories as the currency of the 'bank'. Accessibility was important and it was hoped that the initiative would be significant for the community, visitors and as a hub. A website had been launched at <https://www.thebankofdreamsandnightmares.org> and funding was in place to start the project, but a statement of support from Dorset Council and Bridport Town Council would help, including with future funding bids. A soft launch may take place in advance of securing premises, with events at possible locations such as schools and the Lyric Theatre.

Members considered:

- The proposed age range of the intended audience, which was 7 to 18 years;
- The geographical area covered, said to be a radius of 12 miles;
- The design, layout and tenure of the proposed premises;
- The help that Dorset Council ward members and the Town Surveyor could offer; and
- The possible involvement of volunteers currently assisting with Covid-19 support.

RECOMMENDED: that Bridport Town Council supports the proposed Bank of Dreams and Nightmares.

The Chairman offered thanks to Nick Goldsmith, who left the meeting at this point.

## **8. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS – YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3628, and a recommendation from the Best Value & Scrutiny Sub Committee meeting held on 8 June 2021.

Following discussion and clarification on one point regarding earmarked reserves, it was: -

RECOMMENDED: that the Annual Accounts for 2020/21 be approved.

## **9. SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY THE TOWN SURVEYOR**

The Town Surveyor reported on:

- A previously circulated list of ongoing projects, for which some expenditure had been deferred, so that opportunities could be taken to deliver when available;
- Sitting Out Licences – the number approved had risen to 31;
- Drinking water fountains – two fountains were being explored, along with external funding, in Plottingham and West Bay;

- Electric vehicles – several prices have been obtained and discussions continue, with a demonstration arranged for Thursday 17 June 2021;
- Progress with solar car ports, the Old Dairy site, asset transfers and land to the rear of Waitrose.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and the Town Surveyor be thanked for his work.

#### **10. MARKET AND BUSINESS LIAISON WORKING GROUP**

The Clerk reported that the committee should review the membership and meeting dates for the working group annually.

RESOLVED: that the membership of the Market & Business Liaison Working Group be unchanged for the municipal year 2021-22.

RESOLVED: that the working group meetings be held at 4pm on 22 June 2021, 19 October 2021, 8 February 2022 and 12 April 2022.

#### **11. HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3617. This initiative had been agreed by Climate Action Sub Committee and aimed to provide information on energy reduction measures, along with potential suppliers. It was hoped that the estimated cost of £10,000 would be covered by a grant application to Awards for All, but the Sub Committee had requested that £10,000 be released from the Climate Emergency reserve, to underwrite the bid.

RESOLVED: that £10,000 be approved for the Healthy Homes initiative, funded from the Climate Emergency reserve.

#### **12. BRIDPORT COMMUNITIES TRUST**

The Town Clerk reported on the current position and the need to appoint the management committee, comprising a majority of non-councillors. A dedicated meeting of the Council acting as sole trustee would be required to confirm the appointments, with ten days' notice given.

Members considered:

- Advertising for potential committee members;
- One year appointments in the first instance;
- Input from existing stakeholders such as the Discovery Centre and Women's Institute;
- A preference for the sole trustee meeting to be held in September 2021; and
- Promotion of the opportunity to get involved through media releases, BLAP, social media and at public events.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Town Clerk be noted.

**13. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Gill Massey updated members on the Bridport Millennium Green Trust's work to discover the history of the 'Ice House' which was now thought to have originally been a bridge.

Cllr Maggie Ray reported that Borough Gardens were being improved to cater for a forthcoming 'Americana' event.

RESOLVED: that the reports from outside bodies be noted.

**14. APPOINTMENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL**

The Town Clerk presented an unchanged list of appointments from 2020/21.

RECOMMEND: that the list of representatives on outside bodies be approved as in Appendix 1 to the minutes, subject to any additional amendments at Full Council.

**15. PROPOSALS TO THE DORSET ASSOCIATION OF TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS (DAPTC) AGM**

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council had not yet been approached to provide any motions for consideration by DAPTC, but that this could happen during August, when there are no council meetings scheduled to consider the matter. He invited members to consider and appropriate subjects, so that any request could be dealt with at that time.

Cllr Dave Rickard suggested that the Town Council might want to consider a motion calling on Government to deliver an improved understanding of civic and citizenship matters in school, so that children gain a proper understanding of how their town works.

Members also considered resubmitting a motion calling for a greater emphasis on climate change in national planning policy, as there was no indication of any progress since it was considered in 2020.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk, Leader of the Town Council and Town Mayor liaise to draft a motion on citizenship in schools.

**16. VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

Members discussed the matter at length and were keen to have the flexibility of both in person and virtual meetings.

The Town Clerk advised that he would likely be moving Council meetings to the Zoom platform from GoToMeeting, based on feedback received.

RESOLVED: that Full Council should consider the matter further.

**17. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Town Clerk reported that he had written to George Streatfeild, congratulating him on the award of an MBE.

**18. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The Town Clerk presented List 1 of the 2021/22 accounts, in the sum of £205,368.29 which had been authorised for payment since the last meeting. This having been tabled for members' information was approved by the Chairman.

RESOLVED: that the payments presented be approved.

**19. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

Members declined to resolve to request that the press and public withdraw, as the information to be discussed was now known to be in the public domain.

**20. BRIDPORT AREA DEVELOPMENT TRUST**

Cllr Sarah Carney summarised a paper circulated to members prior to the meeting, setting out the approach taken to an options appraisal and proposed way forward for the Literary & Scientific Institute (LSi) proposed by the Bridport Area Development Trust (BADT), along with a financial comparison between two possible options that had been considered. She advised that the BADT was now seeking a funding contribution and Service Level Agreement with the Town Council. The financial summary suggested an annual contribution of £5,000.

Members considered the documents in the context of their previous decision to support a proposal involving Crowdfunder and 3DC. The following were highlighted as issues for clarification, prior to further discussion at Full Council:

- The current position regarding a loan granted to the BADT by Dorset Council;
- Clarity over the running costs of the LSi; and
- How a Town Council contribution would help the BADT deliver its commitment to community benefits – both those outlined in the paper and any further requirements of the Town Council.

The Town Clerk agreed to liaise with the BADT to obtain further information on these matters.

RESOLVED: that the matter be referred to Full Council for consideration.

The meeting closed at 9.29pm.

**The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 13 September 2021**

Organisation	No. of Reprs	Geoff Ackerman	Ian Bark	Dave Bolwell	Barry Irvine	Gill Massey	Martin Ray	Maggie Ray	Anne Rickard	Dave Rickard	Sarah Williams	Steve Williams	Kelvin Clayton	Julian Jones	Ros Kayes	Karen Hunt	Rose Allwork	Sarah Carney	Sandra Brown
A35/Miles Cross Advisory Group	1+R										✓							R	
Asker Meadows Steering Group	1					✓													
Axe Valley and WD Ring and Ride	1													✓					
Bridport & District Tourism Assn	1						✓												
Bridport & WD Sports Trust Mgmt Cttee	1			✓															
Bridport & Dist Comm Football P'ship	1	✓																	
Bridport Area Development Trust	1										✓								
Bridport Arts Centre Mgmt Cttee	1				✓														
Bridport Business Chamber	1+R												✓				R		
Bridport Charities Trustees	Mayor +2	✓			✓	✓													
Bridport CAB Mgmt Committee	1				✓														
Bridport Community Orchard Group	1		✓																
Bridport Hat Festival	1	NO REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATED																	
Bridport Heritage Forum	1																✓		
Bridport Local Area Partnership	2				✓					✓									
Bridport Food Festival Committee	1			✓															
Bridport Millennium Green Trust	1					✓													
Bridport Museum Trust	2	✓									✓								
Bridport Young Persons Action Trust	1			✓															
Bridport Youth and Community Ctr	1			✓															
Bridport Twinning Association	2	✓										✓							
Burrough Harmony Trust	1											✓							
Burrough Harmony CFR Steering Gp	1				✓														
Christmas Festival Committee	1								✓										
DAPTC	2									✓	✓								
Dorset Coast Forum	1									✓									
Skills Training Bridport	1												✓						
St Michaels Community Liaison WG	2									✓									
The Stephen Rook Memorial Fund	1						✓												
West Bay Forum	1									✓									
WATAG	2														✓			✓	