

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Thursday 24 June 2021 at 11.00am.

PRESENT Cllr Rose Allwork Karen Hunt
Ian Bark Dave Rickard
Kelvin Clayton

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk) and David Dixon (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer)

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: that Cllr Rose Allwork be elected as Chairman of the Sub Committee.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ian Bark.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting of the committee held on 27 May 2021 be agreed and signed by the Chairman.

5. CAR CLUB

Richard Falconer of Co Wheels gave a presentation on car club services provided by the company. He set out the company background, the operating arrangements for existing car clubs run by Co Wheels, the package that could be offered, and the benefits of car club membership, cited as being:

- Convenience;
- A means of transport in an area with very limited public transport;
- Cost savings;
- Reduced car ownership; and
- Reduced emissions and improved air quality.

Richard advised that one key to success was finding the optimal location for car club vehicles. He explained that an 'app' was used for bookings, and that car clubs could be an efficient 'pool' option for councils.

Members discussed:

- How Co Wheels would engage to change community attitudes towards carbon reduction. Richard explained that the approach was to focus on the benefits to members, such as giving up a second car and the cost savings. Working from home had also provided an incentive to consider car club membership.
- The requirement for cars to be returned to their original pick-up points, and whether this could be adapted to cater for those travelling to Dorchester for onward journeys by train. Richard advised that the Co Wheels car club model would not be appropriate for that purpose.
- The viability of a car club scheme in Bridport. Richard advised that initial support funding might be required to 'pump prime' a scheme, with costs estimated at £6,000 per hybrid car per annum, for up to three years. A utilisation rate of 20-30% in any 24 hour period was needed to make the scheme commercially viable.
- The approach to setting up a scheme. Richard advised that detailed analysis was required but that in principle, the approach was to start small and build up the number of vehicles.

Richard advised that he would work on the details for a sustainable scheme for Bridport, and left the meeting at this point (11.42am).

Members further discussed:

- Engagement with another potential provider, such as Co Cars.
- The merits and otherwise of meeting the initial 'pump prime' costs, including the need for any funded solution to be of benefit to all parts of the community.
- Vearse Farm as a potential opportunity for a scheme.
- Developing electric vehicle charging points to support a scheme. The Town Clerk advised he would seek an update from Dorset Council on plans to install more points in public car parks.
- Electric bike hire as an alternative.

RESOLVED: that further detail of potential car club schemes, including types of journey, be pursued from providers other than Co Wheels, and that the developers at Vearse Farm be asked to confirm that electric vehicle charging points will be installed within the development.

6. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

The Project Manager reported that:

- The Energy Efficiency brief had been sent to potential partners and published on the Council's website. There had been a good response in terms of interest and it was hoped there would be a range of submissions to consider. The initiative linked with work on affordable housing, for example through Raise the Roof and Bridport Area Community Housing. It was hoped that an event could be staged in October half-term. Councillors would be engaged in analysis of submissions, and could be considered at the July 2021 sub committee meeting if needed.
- A planning application for the proposed solar car ports was due for submission in the next week.
- The Access and Movement Study would be considered by the Planning Committee on 28 June 2021.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Project Manager be noted.

7. PLASTIC FREE BRIDPORT

The Town Clerk reported that the application for plastic free status for Bridport required the approval of a specifically worded Town Council resolution, and that a previously agreed wording would not meet the requirement.

Members considered the issue and

RESOLVED: that the following expression of support be approved:

- Bridport Town Council will lead by example and remove single-use plastic items from its premises and operations.
- Bridport Town Council will support plastic-free initiatives in the area, promoting the campaign and supporting events.
- The named representative of Bridport Town Council to sit on the Plastic Free Community Steering Group is: Cllr Ian Bark.

8. COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES ON OTHER ISSUES

Members requested that further information on the October half-term event (minute 6) be provided at the next meeting.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Cllr Karen Hunt advised she would attend the next meeting virtually, which would mean she was unable to vote.

Members considered the forthcoming business and the norm that Council meetings are not held in August, and

RESOLVED: that the meeting scheduled for 26 August 2021 be cancelled.

The meeting closed at 12.14pm.

The next Sub Committee meeting will take place on Thursday 29 July 2021 at 11am.