

Minutes of a VIRTUAL meeting (Zoom ID: 850-6871-0281) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held on Wednesday 8 September 2021 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Kelvin Clayton (Chairman)

Ian Bark	Anne Rickard
Sarah Carney	Dave Rickard
Karen Hunt	Steve Williams
Barry Irvine	

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk), Nick Good (Bridport Carnival Committee) and Chelle Good (Bridport Carnival).

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no representations at the Public Forum.

15. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ros Kayes.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 June 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and that the Chairman should sign the minutes at the earliest available opportunity.

Cllr Sarah Carney reported on a visit to the 'Bold and Brave' youth facility in Taunton. She advised she would circulate a note about the work of the managing organisation Young Somerset and its CEO Nick Harwood.

Cllr Carney asked about charging points in car parks. The Town Clerk advised he would chase Dorset Council for a response.

Cllr Carney asked whether representatives of the Integrated Care System would be invited to Full Council. The Town Clerk advised that this might be deferred in favour of a discussion about the review of community governance.

18. CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Climate Action Sub Committee of 24 June 2021 and 29 July 2021 be received and the decisions therein adopted.

RESOLVED: that the Town Mayor, Cllr Ian Bark, be thanked for his work in helping the town to achieve Plastic Free status.

RESOLVED: that item 6 on the agenda, Torchlight Procession Petition, be brought forward for consideration as the next business.

19. TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION PETITION

Nick Good spoke on behalf of the Bridport Carnival Committee, advising that Highways England (HE) had refused a road closure on the A35 for the Torchlight Procession and had re-confirmed this position recently. The reason given were risks to those operating the closure and the travelling public. The Police had not objected. The Carnival Committee had written to the MP asking for support for a road closure and he had advised he would consider what action he could take. The concern was sufficient for the Carnival Committee to launch a petition, both online and in hard copy format. The Chamber of Commerce had given their support. Thus far HE had only responded via the local newspaper. Nick asked the Town Council to add its support for the petition, which had attracted 1,614 signatures to date.

Members asked:

- When the closure needed to be agreed in order to allow the Procession to proceed in 2022. Nick advised that a decision was needed by January/February.
- Whether other options had been considered, such as ending the Procession at the Rugby Club, Football Club or Asker Meadows. Nick advised that all other options looked at were considered unsatisfactory.
- Whether Chris Chibnall, who had attended the Procession with the cast of Broadchurch, could be approached for high profile support. Nick said this could be considered, and that the local BBC and ITV news outlets had been emailed.

Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Council strongly supports the petition of the Bridport Carnival Committee to save the Torchlight Procession, and will promote it publicly and issue a statement of support.

Nick and Chelle Good left the meeting at this point (7.41pm).

20. OPEN SPACES TASK FORCE

The Town Clerk gave a verbal report on the meeting of 28 July 2021, which had considered:

The Town Surveyor's Report, updating members on progress with:

- Plottingham Fields Project;
- Old Dairy Site;
- Solar Car Ports;
- Asset Transfers;
- Murals;
- Vearse Farm;
- Sitting Out Licences/Charges; and
- Bridport Sculpture Trail.

There were no recommendations arising from the meeting.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

21. TOWN COUNCIL MANAGEMENT OF GRASSED AREAS

Consideration was given to a report, ENCL: 3651, setting out a draft policy on management of grassed areas and inviting member comment.

Members commented approvingly of the draft, and suggested it be finalised and issued in leaflet form.

RESOLVED: that member comments be incorporated into a policy document to be published as a leaflet.

22. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

The Town Clerk reported on work by the Rights Respecting Group and Lyric Theatre, with the Lyric Van project engaging young people in the issue of rights, and the installation of a mural at Bridport FC.

Cllr Dave Rickard reported on the forthcoming Big Green Week, including open eco homes. He asked that the initiative be linked to from the Town Council's website.

Cllr Kelvin Clayton on a 'Green Ethics' event, part of the Big Green Week, the opening ceremony of which would be held on 18 September 2021 at 10.30am at Millennium Green.

23. ISSUES FOR FUTURE REPORTS

RESOLVED: that the committee consider how to gauge the community value of heritage assets, as part of ongoing work on planning policy.

24. UPDATES ON OTHER ONGOING ISSUES/CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items to report.

The meeting closed at **7.56pm**.

The next meeting of this committee will be held on 3 November 2021 at 7.00pm