

## ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a virtual meeting (Zoom ID:817 7554 2436) of the CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held on Thursday 30 September 2021 at 11.00am.

PRESENT    Cllr    Rose Allwork                      Karen Hunt  
   Ian Bark                                Dave Rickard

ALSO PRESENT: Alan Heeks, Sam Wilberforce, Will Austin (Town Clerk) and David Dixon (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer).

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

No members of the public attended to address the Public Forum.

### **19. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Kelvin Clayton.

### **20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **21. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting of the committee held on 29 July 2021 be agreed, and that the Chairman should sign the minutes at the earliest available opportunity.

### **22. PROPOSAL FOR A BRIDPORT CLIMATE FORUM**

Alan Heeks and Sam Wilberforce, on behalf of Seeding our Future, Transition Town Bridport, and West Dorset Friends of the Earth, addressed the sub committee, summarising a proposal to set up a Climate Forum and emergency response provisions, including a local volunteer network.

Members discussed:

- The need for a forum to be community-based.
- Attendance and outcomes of a public meeting held by the proposing groups on 21 September 2021.
- Opportunities for a collaborative approach to the creation of a forum.
- The need to involve individuals and 'hard to reach' communities, as well as community groups.
- The extent to which the Town Council could provide support within limited available capacity.
- How to deliver funding and capacity for outreach work, following the creation of a forum.

- The need to assess the success of the Energy Champions initiative, as an example of engaging the community in the climate emergency, before making decisions on how best to engage.
- Face-to-face, virtual and hybrid options for a forum.
- Media and social media activity.
- The challenge of obtaining funding from parish councils, in support of initiatives such as the forum.
- The potential for a first forum meeting to focus on resilience planning.

RESOLVED: that the proposal be supported in principle, and that further detailed discussions take place to enable the proposing groups to deliver a climate forum, within available Town Council capacity.

### **23. BRIDPORT EMERGENCY & RESILIENCE PLAN**

Consideration was given to a draft Bridport Emergency & Resilience Plan, ENCL: 3661, setting out a draft updated Town Council Emergency & Resilience Plan.

Alan Heeks addressed members on the need for additional capacity for resilience, as highlighted by national and county-level risk registers, and his concern that the Dorset Council risk register was up-to-date.

Members considered:

- The need for flexibility to be built into the Emergency & Resilience Plan.
- Whether the activation of the plan would trigger funding support.
- The development of a Town Council resilience reserve fund.
- The need to engage the community in the issue of resilience.
- Investment in resilience, for example through flood defences.

The Chairman thanked the Town Clerk and the Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer for their work on the draft plan.

RESOLVED: that members submit comments on the draft Emergency & Resilience Plan to the Town Clerk.

### **24. COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES ON OTHER ISSUES**

The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer updated members on efforts to recruit Energy Champions and asked for further help in publicising the initiative via social media.

### **25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Sub Committee meeting will take place on Thursday 28 October at 11am.

The meeting closed at 12.12pm.