

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE of
Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday 3 November
2021 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Kelvin Clayton (Chairman)

Ian Bark	Ros Kayes
Sarah Carney	Anne Rickard
Karen Hunt	Dave Rickard
Barry Irvine	

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk) and one member of the public.

PUBLIC FORUM

Sheri Ahmet of the Friends of Wellfields group addressed the committee with a request to support planting of bulbs around the base of trees at the green bordering Wellfields Drive and Acer Avenue. The group had taken a break and now wanted to revisit earlier proposals in a more gradual way. The top item identified in a survey was planting of flowers. All neighbouring residents had supported the idea of bulb planting, bar one who refused to engage. Regarding a longer-term plan for the green, the group wanted to pick out one initiative at a time.

The Town Clerk displayed images provided by the group, showing the existing layout of the green and indicative planting arrangements.

The Chairman thanked Sheri for her address and advised that the request would be considered later in the meeting.

25. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Steve Williams.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

27. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 September 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED: that agenda item 6(iii), Wellfields Drive/Acer Avenue, be brought forward for consideration as the next business.

28. WELLFIELDS DRIVE/ACER AVENUE

The Town Clerk reported that The 'Friends of Wellfields' group had come forward with proposals to plant bulbs on the green at Wellfields Drive/Acer Avenue, and were looking for Town Council support. The group had previously approached the Council for support for a more ambitious project. Members has agreed this initially,

but after a major adverse reaction from residents living alongside the green it became apparent that the plan did not have full community support, and that the initiative had created significant local conflict. The Police had been involved. After a break, the group had now returned with a proposal to start small with some bulb planting. They had advised that all neighbouring residents have given support bar one. The longer term plan referred to by Sheri Ahmet in the Public Forum had not been provided. The Town Clerk recommended that members welcome their efforts, but consider asking for more information about what might follow before agreeing to support the project. The final decision lay with Dorset Council as highway authority, but Town Council support would be required as a first step.

Members considered the request, and recognising that this was a relatively minor change

RESOLVED that:

- The proposed bulb planting be supported as presented;
- The group should consult widely and seek Town Council support for any further proposals not covered by the bulb planting request; and
- The group should approach Dorset Council for formal approval for the bulb planting scheme.

29. CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Climate Action Sub Committee of 30 September 2021 be received and the decisions therein adopted.

RESOLVED: that the cancellation of the meeting scheduled for 28 October 2021 be noted.

30. RIGHTS RESPECTING TOWN

Consideration was given to a report on behalf of the Lyric Theatre, ENCL: 3664. The Town Clerk summarised the report which set out the events and activities carried out in the Right Up Your Street project led by the Lyric Theatre. The events had been used to engage local people in the five Rights Respecting Charter principles, with a focus on the pandemic. This engagement had generated a range of views and concerns. The outcomes included poetry, puppets, photographs, video, a lockdown song, and a mural. These would be shared over the coming year. The project also provided much-needed employment for local artists. The reach had been strong with some 600 residents engaged face-to-face, and many thousands more electronically. The venues stretched across the greater Bridport area. The report provided a number of recommendations for consideration which the Clerk asked members to consider.

Members considered:

- The benefits of engaging a Rights Respecting artist champion;
- The welcome use of the Lyric Van, which had toured the town with creative engagement activities;
- The funding challenges associated with some of the report recommendations;
- Opportunities for collaboration to deliver some of the recommendations;
- How best to reach the 'seldom heard' parts of the community;
- The development of a strategy in support of the recommendations, with stakeholders engaged; and

- The Town Council's role as facilitator.

RESOLVED: that the report and recommendations be welcomed.

RESOLVED: that a Task and Finish Group be established to develop a Rights Respecting Engagement Strategy and Action Plan, and that the Right Up Your Street project team be invited to participate.

31. PROJECT UPDATES

The Town Clerk updated members on the following projects:

- **Access & Movement Study.**
As an addendum to the main study already approved by BTC, further work had been carried out looking at improving cycling and walking access between Foundry Lea and the town centre. Planning Committee had received a presentation on 1 November outlining the main issues – how to create an exemplar route across Plottingham Fields to the Bus Station, secondary access routes, and interim solutions while the ideal outcomes were pursued. The addendum would now be used to influence key stakeholders including the Foundry Lea developers and Dorset Council.
- **Bridport Sculpture Trail.**
Following a second year of commissions, 11 installations were now in place along or near to the Bridport Green route. Thanks were offered to Cllr Karen Hunt as the councillor input into the selection process. A previously online-only map/leaflet had been supplemented with a paper version, available from Mountfield and the TIC. Unfortunately two ground-mounted installations at Plottingham Fields had been damaged and were being repaired before being relocated at a less vulnerable height.

32. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Karen Hunt reported that she would be delivering a talk on the subject of Agnes Suttill at the WI Hall on 24 November 2021 at 2pm.

The Chairman reported that the Job Club had not met since before the pandemic. The Library had been keen to see a return but with reduced computer availability. One volunteer was not able to return, and the Job Centre could no longer refer people as vacancies exceeded job seekers. As a consequence the Club would not reopen this year and the matter would be revisited in January 2022. If the Club did not reopen then, grant funding would be returned. Cllr Sarah Carney highlighted a possible link with a proposed Skills Academy at the Foundry Lea development.

Cllr Ian Bark reported that a COP26 cycle rally, organized by Friends of the Earth, would take place on 6 November 2021 in the town centre.

33. FUTURE REPORTS

RESOLVED: that the Rights Respecting Engagement Strategy be tabled for consideration at a future meeting when the Task and Finish Group (minute 30) has completed its work.

34. CORRESPONDENCE AND UPDATES

The Town Clerk reported that the recent Shoppers Survey had included entry into a prize draw for a £25 voucher. He asked the Chair to draw the winning entry, from those numbered between 2 and 139. The Chairman drew number 77.

The Chairman reported that action was needed to remove graffiti from the shelter at Plottingham Fields. Cllr Karen Hunt advised that there was a need to respond to anti-vaccination flyposting as a Rights Respecting issue.

The meeting closed at **8.20pm**.

The next meeting of this committee will be held on 12 January 2022