

## ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held on Thursday 16 December 2021 at 11:00am.

PRESENT Cllr Ian Bark Karen Hunt  
Kelvin Clayton Dave Rickard

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk) and David Dixon (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer). Cllr Rose Allwork attended virtually and was therefore not eligible to chair the meeting or to vote on matters considered.

### PUBLIC FORUM

#### 34. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ian Bark, and from Cllr Rose Allwork whose virtual attendance could not be accepted as formal attendance. In her absence it was

RESOLVED: that Cllr Dave Rickard chair the meeting.

#### 35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 36. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting of the committee held on 25 November 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

#### 37. RESILIENCE CAPACITY

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3678, setting out the potential for recruitment of a Resilience Officer.

Members considered:

- The importance of the interaction between such a post and that of the Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer;
- The potential for a job share arrangement with the Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer;
- The line management arrangements. The Town Clerk advised that such a position would report direct to him;
- The detail of the proposed job description;
- The term of appointment and whether this should be one or two years;
- The benefits of a fixed term appointment and the need for monitoring;
- The need to demonstrate the value of such a post to the community;
- A similar proposal being considered by the group Seeding Our Future; and
- Resilience issues that are not directly climate-related.

RESOLVED: that the creation of a Resilience Office post be recommended to Finance & General Purposes Committee as a 12-month fixed term appointment, as set out in the sub committee report.

### **38. CARBON BUDGET**

Consideration was given to a report of the Council's carbon budget outturn for 2020/21, ENCL: 3679. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer summarised the modest improvement compared with 2019/20, highlighting the impact of lockdowns and additional work arising from the pandemic. He reminded members that the beneficial impact of the introduction of an electric vehicle would not feed into the budget until 2021/22.

Members considered:

- The importance of the baseline data provided by the report;
- The need to progress energy saving projects such as replacement windows and insulation at Mountfield;
- The challenges associated with making Mountfield an energy efficient building;
- The impact on energy use of keeping windows and doors open to meet Covid safety requirements; and
- The unknown impact of taking on the WI Hall.

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

### **39. SEEDING OUR FUTURE**

Consideration was given to an interim report on a grant of £2,000 made to Seeding Our Future, ENCL: 3680. The Town Clerk advised that the group had asked for an extension to the grant and to change the use of the remaining funds of £807.09.

Members considered:

- The relative focus of the project on strategic versus individual actions. Members discussed whether too great a focus was being placed on the community rather than on strategic actions;
- The need to clarify any link between the proposed change of use of the grant and the current project being pursued by the group; and
- A preference for a focus on food security as this was the original purpose of the grant.

RESOLVED: that an extension for delivery of the funded project to June 2022 be agreed, and that the change of purpose of the grant be approved subject to:

- (i) clarification of how the funding will benefit food security;
- (ii) the provision of an impact report demonstrating the positive community impact and added community value of the actions funded by the grant; and
- (iii) re-acceptance of the original grant conditions.

The Town Clerk was asked to provide the group with a template for the required impact report.

**40. COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES ON OTHER ISSUES**

Cllr Kelvin Clayton reported that members of the Bridport Cohousing group had registered with Co Cars for a car club proposed for the Cohousing development. It was hoped this would show the viability of the club. To improve prospects of success, it was suggested the committee invite Co Cars to a meeting to consider wider partnership working. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer agreed to invite Co Cars, Bridport Cohousing, Barratt David Wilson Homes, Vistry Partnerships and other relevant parties to a meeting.

The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer reported that two further energy champions had been recruited taking the total to 7 and possibly 8. The volunteers had met online and a training programme had been agreed. This would be largely online but with drop-in centres to enable reflection on learning and proposed activities. The training programme would be promoted as one that people could join.

**41. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Sub Committee meeting will take place on Thursday 27 January 2022 at 11.00am.

The meeting closed at 12.32pm.