

## ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held on Tuesday 22 February 2022 at 2:00pm.

PRESENT Cllrs Rose Allwork Karen Hunt  
Kelvin Clayton Dave Rickard

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

### PUBLIC FORUM

#### 42. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ian Bark.

#### 43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 44. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting of the committee held on 14 December 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

Responding to questions the Town Clerk advised that:

- The detailed recruitment arrangements for the post of Resilience Officer were being finalised and it was hoped the position would be advertised within a matter of days; and
- The group Seeding Our Future had advised that a proposed climate forum meeting had been cancelled. The group had advised that take-up of invitations had been poor, most likely due to Covid-19.

#### 45. CAR SHARE & E-BIKE SCHEME

A presentation was received from Mark Hodgson, Managing Director at Co-Cars, covering:

- An introduction to Co Cars;
- The extent of the problem of car use;
- The advantages of car sharing;
- An existing car club implementation in Exeter;
- Detailed booking arrangements;
- Links with public electric vehicle charging;
- The rollout of rapid charging facilities;
- An associated e-bike scheme;
- Co Cars' presence across the south west; and
- Management and monitoring arrangements.

Members considered:

- How a car club scheme might interact with the Foundry Lea and Cohousing developments to extend across Bridport. Mr Hodgson advised that work with Bridport Cohousing was at the planning stage and that he was waiting for a response from Vistry Partnerships in respect of Foundry Lea;
- Implementation in smaller towns and the challenges associated with this. Mr Hodgson described existing schemes in Bude and Axminster;
- Funding arrangements;
- Ensuring that travel to and from rail stations could be incorporated;
- Assessing potential demand as a starting point for any car club project;
- The possible use of 'cargo bikes' for business deliveries; and
- Whether a trial scheme could be initiated.

RESOLVED: that the Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer should liaise further with Co Cars, and report back to a future meeting.

#### **46. ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING POINTS**

Cllr Kelvin Clayton advised that he had requested that this be included in the agenda, following enquiries about the need for more charging points generally, and specifically in West Allington. He asked for members' thoughts.

Members considered:

- Existing arrangements in Bridport, where public electric vehicle charging points were largely confined to Dorset Council car parks.
- The differences between car park provision and on-street, and examples of other places such as Oxford where on-street provision was provided;
- The potential availability of government funding for towns such as Bridport, which could be considered a priority;
- Assessing the likely demand for on-street charging;
- Community engagement via a survey; and
- A press campaign to assist in assessing demand.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should contact Dorset Council regarding their plans for on-street electric vehicle charging.

RESOLVED: that a survey be launched locally to assess demand for public electric vehicle charging points.

#### **47. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – 2021 PRIORITIES REVIEW**

Consideration was given to a report on the Climate Action Plan Priorities set in February 2021, ENCL 3695. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer advised that:

- The report considered priorities set for the last year, and provided updates;
- There were difficulties with defined target dates, for example due to dependencies;
- Members could consider a 'themed' approach to prioritisation;
- There was a need to review timescales, resources and the focus of activity; and
- There had been positive outcomes in terms of engagement, for example through the Energy Champions project, and more engagement with business was needed.

Members considered:

- The interaction of related projects, and the likelihood of delays to one project causing delays to others;
- A need for a few priorities for the coming months;
- The potential for business liaison via the Mayor and Plastic Free Bridport;
- A need for a focus on what the Town Council can control; and
- A focus on outcomes already achieved, to help create a story and identify obstacles to success.

RESOLVED: that the matter be considered further at the next meeting, with potential themes to include business communications, transport and community engagement.

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

The Town Clerk reported on an email received from Seeding Our Future during the course of the meeting, advising that the delay to the climate forum, reported at minute 44, was not a key element in the groups 'Bridport Climate Response Plan', and that cancelling would have no bearing on the previously agreed repurposing of the grant awarded by the sub committee.

#### **49. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Sub Committee meeting will take place on Thursday 31 March 2022 at 11.00am.

The meeting closed at 3.44pm.