

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE of  
Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield on Wednesday 9 March 2022 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Kelvin Clayton (Chairman)

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

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk), David Landsberg (LitterLotto),  
and two members of the public.

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mark Lycett addressed members on the subject of support for Ukraine, thanking the Town Council for illuminating the Town Hall clock in blue and yellow. He said it was a terrible situation and asked about further plans. The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council had raised flags at the Town Hall and at Mountfield, a press statement had been issued and there would be further engagement in provision for refugees. Cllr Dave Rickard added that a pan-Dorset response to the refugee crisis would be less fragmented than each community acting independently.

#### **44. APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received.

#### **45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **46. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 January 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

#### **47. CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Climate Action Sub Committee held on 22 February 2022 be received and adopted.

#### **48. LITTERLOTTO**

The Town Clerk advised that members had previously declined an opportunity to engage with this initiative, highlighting concerns regarding advertising, impact on local businesses and potential unintended and unknown consequences of the approach offered.

David Landsberg presented on updated arrangements for the LitterLotto scheme, under which the public were encouraged to dispose of litter with the incentive of prizes. He assured members there were no costs and no commitment, and summarised a slideshow setting out how the scheme worked.

Members discussed:

- The provision of collateral material, which Mr Landsberg advised would be provided in digital form only.
- Branding of collateral material. Mr Landsberg advised that LitterLotto's branding would appear, along with that of the local McDonalds if it was involved.
- Concerns about the design of the collateral material, with bright colours that might have an adverse impact on the street scene.
- The need to encourage people not to drop litter, as well as to pick up litter.
- Concerns about the litter impact of supermarkets.
- Concerns about collection of personal data. Mr Landsberg advised that all data was anonymised and GDPR compliant. In future, AI would be used for brands as they needed to be seen to be addressing the issue of litter.
- The need to involve schools in addressing littering.
- Concerns that public litter bins did not allow for recycling.
- Whether an age limit was applied to the scheme. Mr Landsberg advised that this was not a lottery, but a prize draw, so there was no lower age limit. However, the 'app store' stated 12 years plus.
- Resource implications for the Town Council, through poster design, possible sponsorship, and engagement with schools.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should engage with local schools on LitterLotto, and report back to the committee.

#### **49. BEACH WHEELCHAIR ACCESS**

The Chairman reported that a member of the public had highlighted difficulties for those with disabilities – particularly wheelchair users – in accessing the beach at West Bay. A scheme to provide a 'boardwalk' to East Beach had been abandoned by Dorset Coast Forum, as the cost and engineering difficulties were far greater than originally envisaged. The new request was for a simpler solution using 'rigid matting' similar to that in place in Lyme Regis (estimated cost £3,000 to £4,000). The member of the public had also asked that a wheelchair hire facility be put in place as in Lyme Regis, with beach-friendly wheelchairs (at an estimated cost of £2,500 to £3,500 each) hired out by the Town Council.

Elaine Leader, who was in attendance, was invited to address councillors. She said that the Lyme Regis scheme had been in operation for five years and asked that it be replicated at West Beach. The matting would be in place only during summer months, so would not be affected by storms. She outlined different types of wheelchair for people with different needs, and advised that storage would be required. The Tourist Information Centre could be used for bookings and there should be advertising to promote the scheme, which would appeal to residents and visitors. The Harbour Master had been supportive and would assist in providing a location. There was potential for volunteer involvement and the scheme would need grant funding.

Members welcomed the proposal and discussed:

- The need for liaison with Dorset Council and the Harbour Master, who were responsible for the beach.
- The possibility of an online deposit scheme.
- Potential links with the recently established trishaw scheme.
- A possible facilitation/enabling role for the Town Council.

RESOLVED: that the proposal be pursued, engaging with other groups as required.

**50. EMERGENCY HOMELESS 'POD'**

The Town Clerk reported that, as resolved at the previous meeting, he had asked Bridport Local Area Partnership to consider leading and managing a pod project. They had engaged in lengthy discussions at their Homeless Working Group and at their Management Team, and the response seemed to indicate that this is not a project they are able to lead or manage.

He further reported that the Community Kitchen had indicated that they might lead and manage the project, and had invited further comment from the Town Council, ahead of some preparatory investigations.

Members discussed possible locations and support for a pod, and

RESOLVED: that the Community Kitchen be thanked for its offer to take this initiative forward.

**51. BRIDPORT RIGHTS RESPECTING CITIZENS CHARTER**

The Town Clerk reported that a working group had met to begin consideration of the development of a Rights Respecting Strategy and Action Plan. A draft plan would now be developed and would be tabled for consideration once recommended by the working group.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**52. STREET LIGHTING**

The Chairman asked members to consider areas in Bridport with less than adequate street lighting. Following discussion that highlighted South Mill Lane and Victoria Grove, it was:

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should arrange public engagement to elicit further suggestions.

**53. PARK YOGA**

The Town Clerk reported on a request to consider funding support for Park Yoga, a weekly free community activity for local people, delivered by a charitable organisation. The cost to deliver this for a year was approximately £1,440, of which Park Yoga would potentially fund £700 of this for the initial year. Dorset Council would potentially support with £350 for the initial year. The committee had resolved that the Council consider supporting with £350 for this pilot opportunity for the Spring/Summer of 2022. Following discussion, it was:

RECOMMENDED: that the Finance & General Purposes Committee agree funding support of £350 for Park Yoga for one year only in the first instance and thereafter subject to grant funding, subject to local providers being engaged.

#### **54. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Chairman reported that Bridport Youth & Community Centre was now running four youth clubs due to increased demand, and that staff, including outreach workers, had been engaged. Bookings at the Centre were increasing. He further advised that he would contact the Town Surveyor regarding maintenance.

RESOLVED: that the reports from outside bodies be noted.

#### **55. COMMUNICATIONS AND FUTURE REPORTS**

The Town Clerk reported that the Chairman of Bridport Local Area Partnership had developed a useful summary of deprivation statistics for Bridport, which had been circulated.

The Chairman reported that Bridport Job Club would be closing, due to a reduction in the number of referrals. A grant of £500 awarded by the Town Council would be returned, and the remainder of the organisations balances would be paid to the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Cllr Karen Hunt reported that the offer at Bridport Library was reducing, due to changes to accommodate a Dorset Council customer access point. Microfiche records had been rescued by the Museum, but the reference collection had been removed.

The meeting closed at **8.49pm**.

**The next meeting of this Committee will be held on 8 June 2022**