

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held on Thursday 31 March 2022 at 11:00am at Mountfield, Bridport.

PRESENT Cllrs Kelvin Clayton (Chairman)

Karen Hunt Dave Rickard

ALSO PRESENT: Alan Heeks (Seeding Our Future), Will Austin (Town Clerk), David Dixon (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer), and Paul Fuszard (Finance & Office Manager, virtual attendee). Cllr Ian Bark attended virtually, although, in law, this could not be accepted as formal attendance and he could not vote.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the Public Forum.

50. APOLOGIES

In the absence of the Chairman, it was

RESOLVED: that Cllr Kelvin Clayton chair the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Rose Allwork and Ian Bark.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

52. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting of the committee held on 22 February 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

53. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN – PRIORITIES REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report on the draft priorities for 2022-23, ENCL 3709. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer advised that:

- The updated draft circulated with the agenda had taken account of discussions at the last sub committee meeting; and
- The draft was themed around energy, transport and the economy, timetabled with milestones;

Members considered:

- Progress with incorporating the Council's Access & Movement Study into relevant initiatives. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer advised that a meeting had been scheduled with Dorset Highways on 26 April.
- Revisions since the last update, and a need to ensure no actions were inadvertently lost.

RESOLVED: that work with the Minerva Trust be reinstated to the action relating to car clubs.

- Resilience activity. The Town Clerk advised that recruitment was under way to a position whose duties would include climate resilience. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer advised that resilience would be included in the next revision, under Land Use.
- A need to update the town's Flood Wardens scheme.
- Possible membership of the Dorset Climate Action Network.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council should join the Dorset Climate Action Network as a member organisation.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

54. SEEDING OUR FUTURE – PROPOSED WEBSITE

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3708.

Alan Heeks reported that the climate response website referred to in the report was a priority for Seeding Our Future, and that he wanted to check the direction with councillors. He would be using the Bridport Food Matters website as a model, and the contents would include a directory, events, news, blogs, and resources. The site would also share news from Bridport Food Matter, and the new site would drive traffic to Bridport Food Matters.

Members asked:

- Why there was a need for two sites. Alan advised that this was because Bridport Food Matters only covered food.
- How the new site would be promoted as a 'one-stop' resource. Alan advised that he did not see any competition.
- Whether other aspects of climate response, in addition to food, would warrant separate websites. Alan advised that other issues could be included in the new site.
- That care should be taken to ensure that the site would not be seen as a 'mouthpiece' for the Town Council.
- How updates to the Town Council's web content would interact with the new site. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer advised that the Town Council content would relate only to Town Council activity. Alan advised that the new site aimed to serve all organisations.
- Whether the Town Council was required to approve the site as part of the grant funding conditions. The Town Clerk advised that such approval was not a grant condition and that there should be an end-of-grant impact report demonstrating the positive community impact and added community value of the actions funded by the grant.
- Whether groups without websites could be given a means by which they could feed into the new site.

Alan reported on the broader activity relating to Seeding Our Future's Bridport climate response work:

- He had been encouraged by the variety of groups that attended the climate forum meetings.

- A further meeting in March had been cancelled as few had accepted the invitation, possibly due to Covid-19.
- Alan was struggling with what more to do about this aspect of the work, and invited Town Council input.
- Alan suggested perhaps trying again to arrange a further meeting in the summer, with Town Council support.

Members discussed:

- Concerns that discussions on climate response should engage widely, including hard-to-reach groups, and not be confined to an 'echo chamber'.
- A preference for engagement events to be in hard-to-reach areas.
- Progress with the Council's Energy Champions engagement programme. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer distributed a written update to members, and progress in engaging volunteers, and towards getting the energy message out to the intended audience, was welcomed. Alan Heeks advised that he considered the approach taken to be the best way of getting out into the community.
- A suggestion that Seeding Our Future should consider an event in a hard-to-reach area of the town, involving those organisations already engaged.
- A further suggestion for drop-in events in the Autumn.
- How the Energy Champions would be kept engaged. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer advised that would work together to develop information for events including the Community Charter Fair, and would connect with Transition Town Bridport to include more accessible energy improvements at the Green Homes event.
- The job sharing arrangements between the existing Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer, and the additional person now being recruited. This would be a gradual handover so that the new occupant would focus on climate, resilience and associated engagement work.
- The potential for engaging landlords in energy improvements. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer advised that the Dorset Council Homes Standards team was responsible.
- A suggestion that energy efficiency work should not be 'badged' as climate response work, encouraging people to consider cost savings as a means of introducing them to the climate-related aspects.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

55. COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES ON OTHER ISSUES

No communications or other updates were reported.

56. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Sub Committee meeting will take place on Thursday 28 April 2022 at 11.00am.

The meeting closed at 12.12pm.