

Notes of an informal VIRTUAL meeting (Zoom: 841 2068 7784) of
BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL held on Monday 24 January 2022 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Ian Bark – Town Mayor (in the Chair)

Cllr	Geoffrey Ackerman	Ros Kayes
	Dave Bolwell	Gill Massey
	Sarah Carney	Maggie Ray
	Kelvin Clayton	Martin Ray
	Karen Hunt	Anne Rickard
	Barry Irvine	Dave Rickard
	Julian Jones	Sarah Williams
		Steve Williams

ALSO PRESENT Daryl Chambers (Town Surveyor), Paul Fuszard (Finance & Office Manager), Terri Foxwell (Tourist Information Centre Manager) and Will Austin (Town Clerk).

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllrs Rose Allwork and Sandra Brown.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

RECOMMENDED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2021 be confirmed as a correct record, and that the Town Mayor should sign the minutes at the earliest available opportunity.

4. STANDING ORDER 14(b)

There were no questions pursuant to Standing Order 14(b).

5. COMMITTEES

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 6 December 2021 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Dave Bolwell.

RECOMMENDED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 6 December 2021 be received and adopted.

(b) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 10 January 2022 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Dave Bolwell.

RECOMMENDED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 10 January 2022 be received and adopted.

(c) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 17 January 2022 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Maggie Ray.

RECOMMENDED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 17 January 2022 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted, as set out below: -

(Minute 52) BEST VALUE & SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE (ENCL:3675)

RECOMMENDED: that the Scheme of Allowances be adopted at Level 4, and that this decision be reassessed following the Community Governance Review.

(Minute 53) FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2021/2022 – 3rd REVISION (ENCL: 3683)

RECOMMENDED: that the 3rd revision of the estimates for the year 2021/2022 be approved.

(Minute 54) BUDGET AND ESTIMATES 2022/2023

The Town Clerk summarised a report setting out the draft budget and precept setting out options for 2022/23. Members thanked officers for the report and discussed the proposed budget and precept recommendation. Members noted the detailed discussions that had previously taken place at Finance & General Purposes Committee, and added:

- That it was impressive how much the Town Council achieved with a precept of below £250 at Band D; and
- That most residents pay less than the Band D amount;

Following discussion it was:

RECOMMENDED: (a) that the draft estimates for 2022/23 be approved as attached in Appendix A.

(b) that the proposed fees and charges for 2022/23 be approved as set out in Appendix B.

- (c) that the Medium Term Financial Plan be approved as a guide for future years, as in Appendix C, noting that each year's budget will be subject to separate approval.
- (d) that the draft capital programme and proposed use of reserves for 2022/23 and future years be approved, as set out in section 4 of the report and at Appendix D.
- (e) that in terms of the precept, Option 2 be approved, as set out in section 12 of the report, which increases the precept to £766,035 with the annual Band 'D' charge to increase from £242.76 to £249.81, the increase being equivalent to (2.9%) or 14p per week.

(Minute 59) REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT AND APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2022/23 (ENCL: 3688)

RECOMMENDED: that the existing internal audit arrangements continue for 2022/23.

(Minute 60) RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT: ANNUAL REVIEW (ENCL: 3689)

RECOMMENDED: that the Risk Assessment and Management Strategy Policy be approved.

(d) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 12 January 2022 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Kelvin Clayton.

RECOMMENDED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 12 January 2022 be received and adopted.

6. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR, DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL 2022/2023

The Town Clerk reported that the following nominations had been received:

Town Mayor – Cllr Ian Bark
Proposed by Cllr Anne Rickard and seconded by Cllr Gill Massey.

Deputy Town Mayor – Cllr Dave Bolwell
Proposed by Cllr Sarah Williams and seconded by Cllr Dave Rickard.

Leader of the Council - Cllr Dave Rickard
Proposed by Cllr Ian Bark and seconded by Cllr Steve Williams.

No further nominations had been received.

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Council's preferred candidates for the positions of Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and Leader of the Council for 2022/23 be approved as listed above, to go forward to the Annual Town Council meeting (Mayor Making), where the elections to these positions shall take place.

7. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

RECOMMENDED: that the next Open Public Forum subject shall be either the Community Governance Review or the Bus Back Better scheme, to be agreed under delegation by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Mayor and Leader.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were reported for information:

- (1) The Town Mayor reported his list of engagements, ENCL: 3691. He noted that approximately seven carol concerts had been cancelled, but that nonetheless his attendance at engagements was an excellent way of promoting the town.
- (2) The Leader of the Council reported the positive meeting held with Chris Loder MP, regarding the reinstatement of the Torchlight Procession.
- (3) The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council had been offered a large number of sculptures by Greta Berlin, for public display and that discussions were ongoing. He further reported that subject to any member concerns, face-to-face meetings would resume with immediate effect.

The meeting closed at **7:52pm**

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 25 January 2022