

## ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held on Thursday 26 May 2022 at 11:00am at Mountfield, Bridport.

PRESENT Cllrs Rose Allwork (Chairman)

Ian Bark                      Dave Rickard  
Kelvin Clayton

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk), David Dixon (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer), and Caroline Pearce (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer). Cllr Karen Hunt attended virtually, although in law, this could not be accepted as formal attendance and she could not vote.

### PUBLIC FORUM

Alan Lindley addressed members, expressing concerns about the promotion and expansion of electric vehicles. He raised practical considerations in respect of parking, vehicle charging facilities, and inequalities arising from the cost of electric vehicles. He also questioned the environmental benefits of electric vehicles, and offered more modern and efficient combustion engines as an alternative. He said that with ten decades of oil available for extraction, it was not advisable to proceed towards electric vehicles at pace, without ensuring their viability and effectiveness in carbon reduction.

Members engaged in discussion with Mr Lindley, explaining that the feasibility work being undertaken by the Council in respect of car clubs and e-bike clubs would consider the practical concerns he had raised. The Chairman thanked Mr Lindley for his attendance and advised she would provide him with copies of the Council's Climate Action Plan and Emergency & Resilience Plan after the meeting.

#### **64. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Karen Hunt, whose virtual attendance was not currently legally acceptable as attendance.

#### **65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **66. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting of the committee held on 28 April 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

#### **67. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**

David Dixon, Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer, reported that:

- He and Caroline Pearce were liaising over respective priorities and project allocation;

- He had initiated a project looking at how best to support local businesses, and at what investment was needed in the town; and
- He was investigating government funding sources to support the transition to net zero.

Members considered:

- The need to link the business and investment work with the Council's Access & Movement Study;
- A forthcoming meeting between Cllr Kelvin Clayton and Cllr David Walsh, Dorset Council's Portfolio Holder for Planning, which would include issues relating to the town centre;
- Work with Transition Town Bridport to incorporate the Energy Champions initiative into Greener Homes Week;

The Town Clerk reported that:

- He had contacted Axminster and Bude & Stratton Town Councils regarding car clubs in those towns, and would incorporate feedback into a report for the next meeting; and
- It was hoped that a new contact at Western Power Distribution would make early progress with the three-phase electricity supply required in order to progress solar car ports at Plottingham.

RESOLVED: that the reports be noted.

#### **68. PROJECT MANAGER & COMMUNITY INITIATIVES OFFICER**

The Town Clerk introduced Caroline Pearce, the Council's recently appointed Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer. He advised that she would job share with David Dixon, and explained her role in delivering Climate Action Plan projects, resilience, and community engagement. Caroline explained her previous work background and reported that her early priority was to progress the Energy Champions initiative, events and community engagement.

RESOLVED: that Caroline be welcomed as a Town Council Officer, and that the report be noted.

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

- Cllr Kelvin Clayton reported that Friends of the Earth had contacted him to ask whether the Town Council could participate in a mass cycle ride event, part of the Great Big Green Week in October, to promote its climate emergency work and cycling in particular. David Dixon advised he would liaise to pursue this.
- Cllr Ian Bark reported that he would be launching a new Mayoral project in the following week, promoting sustainable palm oil.

#### **70. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Sub Committee meeting will take place on Thursday 23 June 2022 at 11.00am.

The meeting closed at 11.55am.