

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday 8 June 2022
at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Kelvin Clayton (Chairman from item 2)

Ian Bark	Anne Rickard
Karen Hunt	Dave Rickard
Ros Kayes	Steve Williams

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk), Dr Tom Brereton and one
member of the public.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED: that Cllr Kelvin Clayton be elected Chairman of the Committee for the
municipal year 2022/23.

Cllr Kelvin Clayton took the Chair.

PUBLIC FORUM

Jo Burlington addressed members to promote the idea of collective responsibility, in
addition to personal responsibility that people had adopted in looking at their own
carbon footprint. He considered that the current pattern of escalating energy
charges could act as a stimulus and asked that Bridport Town Council consider
including collective responsibility in its literature.

The Chair thanked Jo for his input.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Sarah Carney and Barry Irvine.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED: that Cllr Dave Rickard be elected Vice Chairman of the Committee for
the municipal year 2022/23.

5. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that, subject to replacement of the word “microfiche” with the word
“microfilm”, and replacement of the phrase “...but the reference collection had been
removed” with “...but much of the reference collection had been removed”, both
changes being at minute 55, the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on
9 March 2022 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the
Chairman.

Responding to questions arising from the minutes from Cllr Karen Hunt, the Town Clerk reported that:

- He had written to local schools regarding LitterLotto, as requested by the committee, and was awaiting a response (minute 48);
- He had written twice to the Harbour Master asking for confirmation that beach matting would be allowed at West Beach, and whether Dorset Council or the Town Council would be responsible for its management, and that of any beach wheelchairs provided. No reply had yet been received (minute 49);
- The Community Kitchen had advised that they were due to meet with an emergency homeless pod supplier, and would provide a full proposal after further research. They also proposed meeting with Cllrs Allwork and Carney to discuss the matter. The Clerk did not know whether this meeting had taken place (minute 50); and
- Community engagement on ideas for additional street lighting had not yet commenced, and would be pursued following the recent addition of a second Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer (minute 52).

6. CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meetings of the Climate Action Sub Committee held on 31 March 2022, 28 April 2022 and 26 May 2022 be received and adopted.

Responding to a query, the Town Clerk advised that he would check the status of the Council's membership of the Dorset Climate Action Network.

7. BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

Consideration was given to the Breeding Bird Survey of Bridport & West Bay 2021, ENCL: 3717. One of the authors, Dr Tom Brereton presented on the background to the survey, the methodology, analysis and findings. This included the presence of rare species, threats to bird populations and opportunities to address these threats.

Members considered:

- The possibility of declaring Bridport to be a bird friendly town.
- The need to work with landowners.
- The inclusion of the survey in the Council's Climate Action Plan.
- The contribution made to bird preservation by the Council's management plans for open spaces.
- An opportunity for Dr Brereton to be involved in Green Week.
- Use of the Mayor's blog to promote the survey findings.
- The impact on bird populations from the loss of insects.
- A review of projects in light of the survey.
- The importance of framing the bird preservation message in terms of biodiversity.
- Grant funding opportunities.
- Survey monitoring and follow-up.
- Linking the survey with the Neighbourhood Plan.
- A possible promotional leaflet.
- Inclusion of the findings in the Streetscape and Heritage Interpretation Study.
- Use of the planning system to help with preservation.

RECOMMENDED: that Bridport Town Council makes a statement of intent to be a Bird Friendly Town and establishes a task and finish group to pursue this objective.

The Chairman thanked Dr Brereton for his presentation and input.

8. SCULPTURE TRAIL

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3718, setting out a proposed way forward for the Bridport Sculpture Trail. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer summarised the report, and following discussion it was

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The update on Year 3 of the Bridport Sculpture Trail be noted;
- (ii) The 2022/23 Bridport Sculpture Trail focus will be the Greta Berlin gift;
- (iii) Seven of the existing sculptures be retained in 2022/23;
- (iv) Retention of a number of the most popular sculptures be considered as the basis for the Sculpture Trail beyond April 2023; and
- (v) A proposal from the Arts Development Company to support a commissioning approach to developing the sculpture trail beyond April 2023 be explored.

9. THE PLOTT

Consideration was given to a Town Council event, ENCL: 3719. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer summarised a proposed youth event, with workshops covering music-making, art, street dance and other activities. The event was allied to the Council's Rights Respecting work. Members were asked to agree that the Town Council should be responsible for the event.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council is responsible for the event 'The Plott' on Saturday 11 June 2022.

10. RACIST INCIDENTS

The Chairman advised members of a report of a 16 year-old mixed race child who had been the subject of four incidents of racist abuse.

Members considered:

- The impact of Brexit on attitudes towards race; and
- Actions that the Town Council could take to highlight the issue, and to make a strong statement condemning such behaviour.

RESOLVED: that the Police be contacted to engage in a joint press statement with the Town Council.

11. OTTER BEND

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3720. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer summarised the report, in which a resident had put forward proposals to form a committee and enhance the area known as Otter Bend, near Dibdin View.

Members highlighted the need for a strong and sustainable community group, with support and capacity, to take this project forward.

RESOLVED: that: -

- (i) the report, including the plan to fence off some of the area and install a wood clad container, be noted.
- (ii) the proposal for access and initial development of the area be supported.
- (iii) the allocation of officer time to be spent liaising with the Otter Bend Committee to discuss any involvement of the Town Council in terms of requests for additional ground staff support be supported.

12. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Dave Rickard reported that a Transition Town Bridport Steering Group meeting had discussed the Fashion Revolution event to be held in July 2022, The Greener Homes event in October 2022, which it was hoped would link with the Council's Energy Champions initiative, and a proposed Edible Garden project.

13. COMMUNICATIONS / UPDATES ON OTHER ONGOING ISSUES

The Town Clerk summarised an email received from a resident of Bradpole parish, highlighting concerns about the use of pesticides and herbicides, including on the pavement outside his home. The email asked for the Town Council's position and for help in influencing other organisations to deter this activity.

The Clerk further reported that the Town Council did not use herbicides to control growth on its land, except where this was the only solution in controlling regulated plants, such as Japanese Knotweed. He advised that the spraying of pavements was carried out by Dorset Council, who had previously justified this on the grounds that it was the only way to protect the structure of hard surfaces.

Members considered:

- The need to persuade the community to accept longer wild growth;
- Obstacles presented by hard surface damage, and difficulties getting to deep roots;
- Acceptance of personal responsibility by residents;
- Neglect, leading to weed growth;
- Hazards to pedestrians caused by excess growth;
- The effectiveness of herbicide use;
- How best to influence Dorset Council;
- Whether Bridport should be a pesticide-free town; and
- Problems caused by poor quality repair work to pavements by contractors working for or on behalf of utility companies.

The Clerk advised he would follow up on the issue and report to a future meeting.

The Clerk further reported on fencing installed to protect the pontoon at Fisherman's Green against unauthorised use. This had come about following use by commercial entities that had declined to engage with the Town Council to ensure proper licensing and safety measures, and a contribution to the cost, which had to date been borne by the Gig Rowing Club and Heritage Canoe Club. He advised that users had now engaged with the Town Surveyor, who would consider licensing arrangements.

The meeting closed at **8.49pm**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 7 September 2022