

Minutes of the meeting of **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held at the Town Hall on Tuesday 28 June 2022 at 7.00pm.

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

Cllr Sarah Carney	Martin Ray
Julian Jones	Anne Rickard
Ros Kayes	Dave Rickard
Gill Massey	Sarah Williams
Maggie Ray	Steve Williams

ALSO PRESENT Will Austin (Town Clerk) and Paul Fuszard (Finance and Office Manager)

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Joe Farnand, Community Development Officer for the Dorset Race Equality Council (DREC), gave a summary of work being carried out in the Bridport area and the aims of the group going forward. DREC had created a multi-cultural hub in Weymouth and Bridport and were seeking allies in the community, in addition to any funding that may be available.

A local resident gave her personal reflections of her and her family's experience of race issues and her positive involvement with a local school. She welcomed the existence of the multi-cultural hub, which enabled the sharing of experiences and was beginning to work with schools. Support, and a widening of the membership and backgrounds of the group, would be welcomed.

The Town Clerk advised that for anyone who fears a backlash if reporting a racial aggravated incident, can contact him to report issues to the Police, to protect the anonymity of any victim, and that connecting with the Bridport Local Area Partnership could extend the profile of the group, to the wider Bridport area.

Attendees discussed:

- Concern at the experiences of racism highlighted.
- The importance of schools' engagement to support young people facing racism.
- Links with the town's Rights Respecting work.
- A need to highlight the issues faced, via the media and social media.
- Links with the local Black Lives Matter movement.
- The availability of Town Council grant funding.
- Opportunities to work with the business community.
- Liaison with Bridport Youth & Community Centre.
- Possibilities for a further public discussion.

The public forum then discussed aspects of the cost-of-living crisis:

- The importance of promoting help available, such as Citizens Advice, funding support, and the Food Bank, and making support available in a simple way.
- Progress with the possible development of a food hub in Bridport.
- The importance of the Food Bank, as a source of food and also wider advice.
- Advice on reducing energy bills, and the work of the Bridport Energy Champions project in supporting this.

- The potential support offered by car and/or e-bike clubs.
- The challenges faced by the Food Bank in terms of funding, donations and storage.
- The potential for donation of fuel allowances to the Food Bank.
- The importance of not wasting food.

15. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Geoff Ackerman, Rose Allwork, Dave Bolwell, Sandra Brown, Kelvin Clayton, Karen Hunt and Barry Irvine.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

18. STANDING ORDER 14(b)

There were no questions pursuant to standing order 14(b).

19. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 6 June 2022 were presented by the Committee Vice-Chairman, Councillor Ian Bark.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 6 June 2022 be received.

(b) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 27 June 2022 were presented by the Committee Vice-Chairman, Councillor Ian Bark.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 27 June 2022 be received.

(c) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13 June 2022 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Sarah Williams.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13 June 2022 be received and adopted, and that the recommendations therein be approved, as set out below: -

(Minute 7) ANNUAL ACCOUNTS – YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

RESOLVED: that the Annual Accounts for 2021/22 be approved.

(Minute 13) APPOINTMENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: that the list of representatives on outside bodies be approved as in Appendix 1 to the minutes, subject to any additional amendments at Full Council.

(d) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 8 June 2022 were presented by the Committee Vice-Chairman, Councillor Dave Rickard.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 8 June 2022 be received and adopted, and that the recommendations therein be approved, as set out below: -

(Minute 7) BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

RESOLVED: 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.

20. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2021/2022

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3729.

The Town Clerk summarised the report and highlighted:

- The Annual Internal Audit Report,
- Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), the Annual Governance Statement; and
- Section 2 of the AGAR, the Accounting Statements for the year 2021/22.

Each of the above were considered separately and each was moved and seconded, put to the vote and declared to be carried. It was therefore:

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the Annual Internal Audit Report 2021/22 be noted, as attached to the report.
- (ii) that the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22, Section 1, be approved as attached to the report.
- (iii) that the Accounting Statements 2021/22, Section 2, be approved as attached to the report.
- (iv) that the Annual Return be signed and submitted to the External Auditor.

RESOLVED: that the Council thanks the Finance and Officer Manager for his hard work and diligence in producing the AGAR for submission.

21. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

RESOLVED: that the subject of the open public forum at the next full council meeting will be the racial incidents of late in the town. Dorset Police and stakeholder groups to be invited to attend, to give an update.

22. COMMUNICATIONS

Consideration was given to the Town Mayor's engagements, ENCL: 3730.

The Town Clerk reported that:

- (i) the police and Dorset Council licensing teams were considering an incident in East Street in the early hours of 18 June 2022;
- (ii) he was aware of one further incident that he would also be reporting to the Police; and
- (iii) councillor Sarah Carney and he had met Matt Piles, Dorset Council's Corporate Director for Economic Growth and Infrastructure, to discuss the planning application process and issues arising.

Cllr Sarah Carney welcomed Mr Piles' recognition of the cultural issues behind concerns about the planning system, and his work to address them. Cllr Sarah Williams advised that Dorset Council members were also concerned, in particular regarding the Scheme of Delegation.

23. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

RESOLVED: that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

24. SOLAR CAR PORTS

The Town Clerk reported the current position regarding the delivery of this project.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

The meeting closed at **8.32pm**

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 20 September 2022

***** This was subsequently amended to 6 October 2022 *****