

Minutes of the meeting of **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Town Hall on Thursday 6 October 2022 at 7.00pm.

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

Cllr	Geoffrey Ackerman	Gill Massey
	Sandra Brown	Maggie Ray
	Sarah Carney	Martin Ray
	Kelvin Clayton	Anne Rickard
	Julian Jones	Dave Rickard
	Ros Kayes	

Also present: Will Austin (Town Clerk), Paul Fuszard (Finance and Office Manager) and 5 members of the public.

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Chima Nwankwo spoke of his experiences of racism. He had lived in Bridport for over seven years and it had generally been a positive experience, but with some issues of race and indifference. Chima reported that he had been racially profiled twice by the Police and that his photograph had been taken without his consent. There had been an unwarranted implication of involvement in drug dealing, and an inadequate response to his concerns. He had involved the local MP at the time. He further reported a second instance of racism experienced when working for a local employer, when he had been wrongly implicated in an incident involving a different black person. He had also been told that he would not fit in.

Members thanked Chima for his openness in bringing forward these experiences, and discussed:

- The need to challenge Dorset Police in respect of their approach to people of colour;
- The importance of union membership in the workplace as a source of support;
- Work by Dorset Race Equality Council to train employers in unconscious bias and inclusivity;
- Other reported incidents of racism in Bridport;
- Engaging the Police in Bridport's Rights Respecting agenda;
- The limited statistics available on incidents in Bridport; and
- Defensive responses from organisations when concerns are highlighted.

Eddie Rose and Toby Pitfield, students at The Sir John Colfox Academy set out their views on the issue of racism. Eddie advised that:

- He had been involved in the school's and the town's Rights Respecting work, and this could be used as a basis for embedding rights in the local community;
- Training should be explored;
- Young people were active in addressing human rights, for example in relation to the climate crisis and Black Lives Matter;
- The limitations of the curriculum and resources in tackling racism;
- The challenges involved in addressing racism locally, given that most involved are white; and

- The potential for an event as part of an anti-racism campaign, possibly involving Stand Up 2 Racism and Complete Freedom of Truth, organisations that had previously engaged in the Black Lives Matter campaign locally.

Toby added that:

- There were issues at both a school and an individual level;
- The current generation of young people had the will to make things better; and
- A lack of diversity was hindering learning.

Members considered:

- Making funds available for an event;
- The ongoing activities of the Black Lives Matter campaign, including every Wednesday evening in Bucky Doo Square;
- A series of racist incidents witnessed in the past three years by local resident Dawn Mason, which the Mayor reported to the meeting; and
- A commitment by the Mayor to further address the issues raised at the meeting.

Nathalie Sherring, the Chief Executive Officer of the Dorset Race Equality Council (DREC), said that the organisation would support an event in Bridport, and that it was important to reinforce the message that it was everyone's responsibility to report racist incidents and to support victims.

The Mayor thanked all present for their engagement in this issue.

Bridport resident Gavin Fryer spoke of the benefits of introducing a 20mph speed limit across the wider Bridport area, and provided supporting statistics, including a study carried out by the University of Edinburgh.

The Mayor thanked My Fryer for his address.

The Town Clerk read out a statement from Ken Hussey, the Council's Market Superintendent and a local resident, who considered that a 20mph speed limit in Bridport would be of benefit to the market and to the North Allington area where he lived.

25. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cllrs Rose Allwork, Karen Hunt, Sarah Williams, Steve Williams and Barry Irvine, who had been granted a six-month leave of absence from 6 September 2022.

Council officers Daryl Chambers and Terri Foxwell had also submitted apologies.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Sandra Brown declared an interest in agenda item 6 (Motion – Twenty's Plenty) as a resident of North Allington. The Town Clerk advised of his view that, as the effect of the motion would be no greater on Cllr Brown than on any other resident in the area, she need not excuse herself from discussion and voting on the issue.

27. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2022 be agreed as a correct record, and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

28. QUESTIONS, IF ANY, PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 14 (a and b)

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

29. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) 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.

(b) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 25 July 2022 were presented by the Committee Vice Chairman, Councillor Ian Bark.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 25 July 2022 be received.

(c) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5 September 2022 were presented by the Committee Vice Chairman, Councillor Ian Bark.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5 September 2022 be received.

(d) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 26 September 2022 were presented by the Committee Vice Chairman, Councillor Ian Bark.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 26 September 2022 be received.

(e) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 27 September 2022 were presented by the Committee Vice Chairman, Councillor Gill Massey.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 27 September 2022 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted, as set out below (each recommendation was moved, seconded and declared to be carried):-

(Minute 21) FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2022/23 – 1ST REVISION

RESOLVED: that the 1st revision of the estimates for the year 2022/23 be approved.

(Minute 22) BUDGET PLANNING 2023/24 ENCL: 3746

RESOLVED: that the membership of the Budget Working Group includes Cllrs Sarah Carney, Julian Jones, Gill Massey, Maggie Ray, Martin Ray, Anne Rickard, Dave Rickard and Sarah Williams.

(Minute 28) APPOINTMENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: that this be considered further at minute 36.

(Minute 29) COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

RESOLVED: that this be considered further at minute 37.

(f) **ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 7 September 2022 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Kelvin Clayton.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 7 September 2022 be received.

30. MOTION – TWENTY'S PLENTY

Cllr Kelvin Clayton presented the following motion, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 11 and worded as follows:

Bridport Town Council:

- Supports the *20's Plenty for Dorset* campaign;
- Calls on Dorset Council to implement 20mph across Bridport; and
- Will write to Dorset Council to request 20mph speed limits on streets throughout Dorset where people live, work, shop, play or learn, with 30mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit.

Cllr Clayton summarised a policy announced that day by Dorset Council, which he considered presented too many restrictions on implementing 20mph limits, including a focus on individual streets, or smaller groupings of streets. He considered that in Bridport, as an urban area, a wider application of the limit was needed as set out in the motion.

Members discussed:

- General support for the motion with a proviso that additional provisions might be needed in future;
- An expectation that there would be support and only be minor opposition to the proposal from within the community, and that the change would transform Bridport and address aggressive driving;
- The restrictive procedure adopted by Dorset Council, which unreasonably placed the onus on the local community;
- Excessive speeding in residential areas such as West Allington, with dangers exacerbated by narrow pavements;
- Successful implementation of 20mph zones in other places, such as Beaminster and London;
- Satellite navigation systems showing a 20mph limit in areas of Bothenhampton, where the limit was actually 30mph;
- A suggestion that all councillors should drive at 20mph and display car stickers to reinforce the message; and
- The pioneering of 30mph limits in the 1990s in the Piddle Valley.

Following the discussion, it was unanimously

RESOLVED: that the motion be approved.

31. POLICE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report from Inspector Mike Brown, ENCL: 3754.

Cllr Sarah Carney requested that future reports should include data on stop and search, and should show the ethnic breakdown.

RESOLVED: that a request be made in accordance with Cllr Carney's proposal.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

32. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

The Town Clerk reported that Cllr Barry Irvine had resigned his membership of the Environment & Social Wellbeing and Planning Committees, due to his extended absence from Council duties. There was an expectation that he would be re-elected to these committees on his return, but there was no legal option for a time-limited resignation and re-election would require a further decision of the Council. In the meantime, members were asked to consider nominations to replace Cllr Irvine on these committees.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that the vacant positions not be filled at this time, and that any volunteers to fill committee positions in the interim should contact the Town Clerk.

33. EXTERNAL AUDIT 2021/22

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3755.

The Town Clerk summarised the report that set out a 26th consecutive year in which the external audit report contained no matters of concern, either major or minor.

RESOLVED: that the Finance & Office Manager be thanked for his work and diligence.

RESOLVED: that the report of the external auditor for the year 2021/22 be approved.

34. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

RESOLVED: that the topic for discussion at the next full Council meeting shall be entitled "Conservation versus Energy Crisis".

35. BUDGET WORKING GROUP

The Town Clerk summarised a request from the Finance & General Purposes Committee that Full Council agree any nominations for membership of the Budget Working Group, over and above the eight members already approved by the Committee.

RESOLVED: that the membership for the 2022/23 Budget Working Group shall be Cllrs Sarah Carney, Julian Jones, Gill Massey, Maggie Ray, Martin Ray, Anne Rickard, Dave Rickard and Sarah Williams.

36. APPOINTMENTS & REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL

The Town Clerk summarised a report to the Finance & General Purposes Committee, ENCL:3750, requesting that appointments to certain external bodies be agreed. The committee had resolved that this matter be referred to Full Council.

RESOLVED: that the additional appointments be made, as follows: -

- Bridport Museum Trust – no further appointments required
- Bridport Twinning Association – Cllr Ian Bark
- Bridport Charities – Cllr Sandra Brown
- Bridport Arts Centre – Cllr Dave Rickard
- Bridport & District Citizens Advice – Cllr Ian Bark
- Bridport Local Area Partnership – Cllr Sandra Brown
- Bridport FC – Cllr Dave Bolwell and Cllr Ros Kayes as a reserve

37. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3751.

The Town Clerk reported that following the outcome of the Community Governance Review, the role of the Community Governance Working Group would now change from one of proposing changes, to one of implementing change. Members were asked to confirm the membership going forward.

RESOLVED: that membership of the Community Governance Working Group be Cllrs Ian Bark, Sarah Carney, Kelvin Clayton, Julian Jones, Ros Kayes, Anne Rickard, Dave Rickard and Sarah Williams.

38. COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were reported for information:

- (1) The Town Mayor reported the list of engagements, ENCL: 3756, including work on youth as one of his Mayoral priorities for the year, and a very successful Civic Day. The Clerk advised he would consider the Youth and Community Centre as a possible venue for a future council meeting and for a presentation on the Centre's youth work.
- (2) The Leader reported that Dorchester had a community radio station and he had been asked if Bridport could replicate this. The Town Clerk agreed to investigate.
- (3) The Town Clerk reported that the Streetscape and Heritage Study had been completed, and that he had written to Dorset Council regarding support for business and the need for flexibility in allowing energy reduction measures, following the sad news of the closure of Leakers Bakery, an iconic and longstanding independent retail outlet in Bridport.

The meeting closed at **9.04pm**.

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 22 November 2022