

## ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held on Thursday 26 January 2023 at 11:00am.

PRESENT Cllr Rose Allwork Kelvin Clayton  
Ian Bark Karen Hunt

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk), David Dixon (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer), Caroline Pearce (Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer), and Alan Heeks (Seeding Our Future).

### PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public attended for the Public Forum.

### 26. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Dave Rickard.

### 27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 28. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting of the committee held on 24 November 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and signed by the chairman.

### 29. FOOD SECURITY

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3784. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer reported that a stakeholder meeting had taken place on 17 January 2023. This had been positive, and had confirmed that food security, land management and the environment were now all key aspects of the Bridport Investment Plan. All groups attending providing updates on their activities. Discussions included ways of matching food demand with supply, costs and prices, and a possible grant application to Sustain. A further meeting would take place on 10 February 2023 leading into a grant bid.

Members discussed:

- The benefits to capacity arising from a successful grant application.
- Concerns about the loss of apprenticeships at Kingston Maurward College, and the consequent impact on skills development.
- The role of the Investment Plan in addressing food security, the town centre, and provision of a college of sustainable skills.
- The securing of funding by Dr Jocelyn Bailey, to develop the detail of a sustainable college.
- Food-related community activity in Blandford.
- The importance of the NFU as a stakeholder and partner.
- A need to ensure all potential allies are identified.

On behalf of Bridport Food Matters, Alan Heeks said that he was encouraged by the progress. He further reported on his personal situation and the impact on climate response work. He would be moving away from Bridport and was winding down his local activity. He had sought assistance in the future maintenance of his climate response website, without success. Instead, he proposed that the Town Council incorporate information into its own website.

Following discussion, it was:

RESOLVED: that there be further informal discussions regarding the transfer of web content to the Town Council's website.

Alan Heeks confirmed that he would arrange for a back up copy of the climate response website to be sent to the Town Council.

Alan further reported on the use of a £500 grant from the Town Council to Seeding Our Future. This was currently being used to buy video equipment, to develop material by the end of March 2023. The delays were at Colfox Academy, and the project would not be complete until the end of May 2023.

Cllr Ian Bark advised Alan to contact him regarding the Youth Fringe.

RESOLVED: that

- (i) The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer should have conversations with various groups separately, to submit a funding bid to SUSTAIN to support the food partnership health check, food system mapping and food strategy, linked to the Investment Plan; and
- (ii) A further food group meeting should be held, including new participants, to discuss the funding bid.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

### **30. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES 2022/23**

The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officers reported on:

- Energy Champions – a January refresher session had been held. Skills in thermal imaging were being developed. Magna was being pursued regarding retro-fitting. LEAP referrals were ongoing at approximately one per week, and there were good links with Citizens Advice.
- Warm Hubs – these were running successfully for their primary purpose, but the level of demand did not justify Energy Champion engagement.
- Solar Car Ports – a metering contract had been signed. A Power Partnership Agreement and power supply was being pursued with Octopus. Discussions were ongoing with Jo Ju and Mer, regarding electric vehicle charging. A grant from Low Carbon Dorset would be signed off shortly.
- Planting Schemes – a scheme at Flaxhayes was complete, and one more was to follow at Asker Meadows.
- Dipper boxes – a partnership initiative would enable delivery of these by February.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

**31. COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES ON OTHER ISSUES**

The Town Clerk reported that:

- The Town Council was pursuing recognition through the Sustainable Business Award; and
- The Council was sponsoring the Green Eco Business Award at the Bridport Business Awards.

**32. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Sub Committee meeting will take place on Thursday 30 March 2023 at 11:00am.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm.