

Minutes of a meeting of **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held at Bridport Town Hall on Tuesday 28 March 2023 at 7.00pm.

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

Cllr	Rose Allwork	Maggie Ray
	Sandra Brown	Martin Ray
	Kelvin Clayton	Anne Rickard
	Karen Hunt	Dave Rickard
	Julian Jones	Sarah Williams
	Gill Massey	

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Fuszard (Finance & Office Manager), Will Austin (Town Clerk), Heather Marston (Youth Worker), Gemma Thorpe (Youth Worker), and two members of the public.

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Heather Marston and Gemma Thorpe from Bridport Youth and Community Centre gave a presentation on the history of youth work in Bridport, and the current service being offered. Their work offered a safe space, activities, advice, signposting, and a voice for the increasing numbers of young people who regularly attend. In addition, they provided an outreach programme, and this had created a need for more youth workers that was hampered by budgetary issues, including the loss of £10,000 of outreach funding.

The Mayor thanked Heather and Gemma for their work in support of young people, and for the presentation. A general discussion followed, covering:

- The availability of volunteering opportunities;
- The impact of reduced funding, including on the ratio of youth workers to young people which was 1:8;
- Current priorities, including anti-social behaviour and outreach work, and ensuring that support was available for the more challenging individuals;
- Partnership working with the Police;
- The catchment area covered, which extended beyond Bridport, but could go further by working with the Beaminster Youth Bus;
- Connections with sports teams such as Bridport FC, and other disciplines such as agriculture; and
- The development of youth-led initiatives, including podcasting and film making.

The Town Clerk offered to contact Dorset Council and Chris Loder MP, to pursue any further assistance in this matter.

Joe Burlington, a retired physics teacher, former member of South Somerset Climate Action, and the initiator of Transition Town Bridport following his move to the area, spoke passionately about the future of the planet, recognising the limited influence a council of this level can impart. He emphasised the need to cut emissions, including those created by renewable energy generation, and cited the

impact of climate change through increasingly prevalent weather events. He stressed the need to change societal behaviours.

The Mayor thank Joe for his address.

The other member of the public present did not wish to speak.

66. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Geoff Ackerman, Dave Bolwell, Sarah Carney, Barry Irvine, Ros Kayes and Steve Williams.

67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest by councillors, and interests declared at committee meetings were noted in the minutes of those meetings.

68. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2023 be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Town Mayor.

69. STANDING ORDER 14(b)

There were no questions pursuant to Standing Order 14(b).

70. COMMITTEES

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 30 January 2023 were presented by the Committee Vice Chairman, Councillor Ian Bark.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 30 January 2023 be received and adopted.

(b) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 27 February 2023 were presented by the Committee Vic Chairman, Councillor Ian Bark.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 27 February 2023 be received and adopted.

(c) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 20 March 2023 were presented by the Committee Vice Chairman, Councillor Ian Bark.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 20 March 2023 be received and the recommendations therein be adopted, as set out below: -

(Minute 87) Highways and Transportation Working Group

RESOLVED: that:

- (i) The Highways & Transportation Working Group be discontinued at the end of the 2022-23 municipal year; and
- (ii) Decisions on requests from the public be considered under delegation by the Town Surveyor or Town Clerk; and
- (iii) A summary of such delegated decisions be tabled periodically at Planning Committee for information; and
- (iv) WATAG be invited to submit an annual report to committee, and be invited to attend committee for urgent matters; and
- (v) The Planning Committee agenda include a standing item for highways and transport matters.

(d) **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13 March 2023 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 March 2023 be received and adopted.

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

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 8 March 2023 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 8 March 2023 be received and adopted.

71. BEACH WHEELCHAIRS

The Mayor reminded members that a Beach Wheelchair Scheme launch event would take place at midday on 31 March 2023.

The Town Clerk reported that three wheelchairs had been purchased and that fundraising was underway by a local volunteer to provide a storage building. This was likely to be located on Dorset Council land at West Bay Harbour. Dorset Council had indicated it would give permission but would not take ownership of the building. In addition, should the Town Council agree to take responsibility for the construction and ownership, this would enable VAT to be recovered.

Members were asked to consider taking responsibility for any building and following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that this be agreed, subject to planning requirements.

72. FOOD ACT 1984

The Town Clerk reported that the powers to hold markets in Bridport were first conferred by the Market Charter of 1253 under the reign of Henry III, and then reconfirmed by Elizabeth I in 1554. These charter rights had been transferred from West Dorset District Council to Bridport Town Council, along with the Tourist Information Centre in 2017.

Although the Council had successfully operated the street market since 2017 using the rights conferred by the charters, NABMA had recently advised that the Council had not fully adopted the powers of a market authority, and recommended that it make a declaration that the Town Council should declare that it operates as a market authority, under the powers provided by the Food Act 1984.

Part 3 of the Act confers particular powers:

- Section 50 provides local authorities, including town and parish councils, with the power to establish markets within their area.
- Section 52 provides that a market authority may appoint the days on which, and the hours during which, markets are to be held.
- Section 53(1) states that a market authority may demand in respect of the market such charges as they may from time to time determine.
- Section 60 makes provision for the making of byelaws dealing with matters including the regulation of the market place and the prevention of nuisances or obstructions in the market place.

This matter had arisen primarily in relation to the parking of market stall vehicles on the highway, and according to NABMA, the adoption of a declaration, possibly alongside more specific byelaws, would place the Council in a position of relative superiority.

The declaration would also give the Council optimal powers to establish or refuse markets, set the days and times of operation, and make charges.

Following member discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that Bridport Town Council operates as a market authority, under the powers provided by the Food Act 1984.

73. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

RESOLVED: that the topic for discussion at the Full Council meeting in June 2023 shall be policing in Bridport and that the local inspector be invited to attend.

74. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Ian Bark reported that he would be leading a Mayoral 'From Street to Sea' litter pick on 8 May 2023, which would also be a contribution to the Coronation volunteering day, requested by the King.

Cllr Anne Rickard reported that Transition Town Bridport had now become Sustainable Bridport.

75. COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were reported for information:

- (1) The Town Mayor reported his list of engagements, ENCL: 3799 and that he was due to attend the launch of the beach wheelchair scheme on west beach, West Bay at Noon on Friday 31 March 2023.
- (2) The Leader of the Council reported that WATAG would be holding a hybrid meeting at Bridport WI Hall on 30 March 2023 at 6.30pm.
- (3) The Town Clerk reported that a Coronation Service was to be held at St Mary's Church on 7 May at 10.00am, and that the lawn at Mountfield would host a picnic the same afternoon.

The meeting closed at **8.27pm**.

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 27 June 2023

The Annual Town Council Meeting (Mayor Making) will be held on 10 May 2023