

## ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held on Thursday 30 March 2023 at 11:00am.

PRESENT    Cllr    Rose Allwork                          Karen Hunt  
                             Ian Bark                                  Dave Rickard  
                             Kelvin Clayton

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

### PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public attended for the Public Forum.

### **33. APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received.

### **34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **35. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the notes of the meeting of the sub committee held on 26 January 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and signed by the chairman.

### **36. ENERGY CHAMPIONS UPDATE**

The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officers reported that:

- A second Energy Champions ‘roadshow’ had attracted limited attendance despite local leafleting. This was likely due to very poor weather. Nonetheless 18 people had visited.
- Different approaches were now being considered for future roadshows, including the use of Bridport Youth & Community Centre as a venue, and incorporating the roadshow into others’ events.
- The thermal imaging camera had been used five times to date. The camera highlighted potential energy saving options, but the viability of some was dependent on the availability of grant support. Further training would take place on 6 May 2023.
- An energy-saving leaflet produced by Ridgewater Energy and Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council was being promoted.
- Other opportunities for focus were being explored, with social media seemingly an effective option.
- A key objective of the Energy Champions work had been to bring a greater share of advice and grants to Bridport residents, through referrals to Ridgewater.

Members discussed:

- How best to measure the success of the Energy Champions initiative;
- The importance of engaging with Magna Housing;
- How to quantify the number of Ridgewater referrals, including those from Magna Housing;
- The need for further initiatives, to be considered as part of a review of the Climate Emergency Action Plan;
- Developing the Energy Champions towards being a self-sufficient community group;
- A regular presence at local service points, such as the Food Bank, Glut Stall, Youth & Community Centre, and the Community Kitchen; and
- Influencing private landlords to engage with energy efficiency.

RESOLVED: that a review of the Climate Emergency Action Plan be considered at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officers be noted.

### **37. FOOD FOR PLANET GRANT BID**

The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer summarised a report on a rejected grant bid to SUSTAIN, ENCL: 3801, to help develop a strategic and overarching approach to food security. He also noted a food security event held by Bridport Food Matters, and presented further information on options for future activity on food security. These included supporting local food events, demand side initiatives, supply side initiatives, and securing funds to commission a Food Security Plan.

Members discussed:

- Whether it was realistic to see Bridport as being wholly self-sufficient in food, and if not, the degree to which this could be achieved;
- Priorities for further work;
- A need for a resilient and sustainable food partnership, and a supporting 'health check' as prerequisites to further work;
- Other opportunities for external support;
- Funding options for developing the health check, and Food Security Plan; and
- A need to develop local skills, made more difficult by the loss of apprenticeships.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer be noted.

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

The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officers summarised priorities from the Action Plan, including grants schemes and their outcomes, and retrofitting.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that Climate Emergency Action Plan priorities be further considered at the next meeting.

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

Cllr Dave Rickard reported that there was no National Grid strategy for solar panels or solar arrays. This had led to inconsistencies in the approach to individual installations.

**40. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Sub Committee meeting will take place on Thursday 25 May 2023 at 11:00am.

The meeting closed at 12.27pm.