

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE of
Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield on Wednesday 8 March 2023 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Kelvin Clayton (Chairman)

Ian Bark Anne Rickard
Sarah Carney Dave Rickard
Karen Hunt Steve Williams

ALSO PRESENT: Cleo Evans (Arts Development Company), David Dixon,
(Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer), and
Will Austin (Town Clerk).

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the Public Forum.

48. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ros Kayes.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

50. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on
11 January 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and signed by the
Chairman.

The Town Clerk provided brief updates on the Close the Door Campaign, which
had been pursued, and a community hardship fund, which was now operating.

RESOLVED: that agenda item 7 (Sculpture Trail) be brought forward as the next
business.

51. SCULPTURE TRAIL

The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer introduced a review of the
arrangements for the Sculpture Trail as follows:

- A three-year agreement with the Arts Development Company had resulted in a well-received trail around Bridport;
- The agreement expired in April 2023;
- The Arts Development Company had been asked to evaluate the trail to inform the future arrangements, and a copy of their report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting;
- A feedback survey had also been carried out, attracting 126 responses; and
- A budget of £2,000 had been allocated for 2023-24.

Cleo Evans, for the Arts Development Company, summarised three options highlighted in their report:

1. A continuation of the current arrangements, with sculptures hired from artists and reviewed annually;
2. A new commissioning process to attract new installations; and
3. A 'hybrid' of the two previous options.

Cleo advised that the trail complemented the objectives of the Dorset Cultural Strategy. She further reported that receipt of the Greta Berlin collection, which did not form part of the trail, could make Option 2 less attractive.

Members discussed:

- The potential for business sponsorship. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer advised that this had been pursued and no appetite had been expressed;
- The benefits and attractiveness of the commissioning approach;
- The limitations of a reduced budget for 2023-24;
- The potential for crowd funding to supplement budgetary provision;
- A desire to keep the most popular existing installations permanently, perhaps including crowd funding for a casted copy of the original;
- The importance of community engagement;
- The implications for the trail arising from the Community Governance Review;
- The potential for funding from the Arts Development Company and Dorset Council, given the contribution of the trail to the Dorset Cultural Strategy;
- Focusing efforts in 2023-24 on retaining the 'Stalking Dog' and 'The Air We Breathe' installations, as the survey had highlighted these as the most popular;
- The need to provide for longer term maintenance; and
- Commissioning as an aspiration from 2024-25.

RESOLVED: that Option 1, a continuation of the current arrangements within the budget allocation, be pursued, along with crowd funding for casting of the 'Stalking Dog' and 'The Air We Breathe' installations.

52. CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Climate Action Sub Committee held on 26 January 2023 be received and adopted.

Members considered the future frequency of meetings and

RESOLVED: that bi-monthly meetings be scheduled from March 2023.

53. PARK YOGA

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3792.

The Town Clerk reported on a request to consider funding support for Park Yoga, a weekly free community activity for local people, delivered by a charitable organisation. The cost to deliver this for the initial year was approximately £1,440, of which Park Yoga funded £720 and Dorset Council support of £360.

Park Yoga had requested a Town Council contribution of £900 for 2023. A grant application for £500 from the West Bay Car Boot Sale Fund was considered to be

part of this funding, and the grant had been approved subject to provision of further information.

Members considered:

- Whether the group had sought funding from other sources;
- The constraints on Town Council funding;
- The outcome of the pilot year in 2022, as summarised in the Town Clerk's report;
- Whether support was a priority for funding; and
- Whether charging would assist, or undermine, the benefits of free provision to those in deprivation.

Following discussion, it was:

RESOLVED: that no funding be approved over and above £500 provisionally agreed from the West Bay Car Boot Sale Grants Fund.

54. OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT REQUESTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk regarding requests from community groups to manage and/or improve open spaces, ENCL: 3793. The report set out proposed criteria for approval, or otherwise, of future requests.

Members welcomed the proposal and discussed:

- The benefits of requests being from a constituted group;
- The importance of the group and request being sustainable for the future; and
- The need for community support for requests.

RESOLVED: that approval of future requests to manage or improve open spaces in Bridport be subject to the request/proposals:

- (i) being from a constituted and open community group; and
- (ii) including a viable and sustainable plan; and
- (iii) providing evidence of demonstrable and strong community support.

55. CLEAN RIVERS WEST DORSET

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3794, requesting that members determine whether a Town Council representative should be appointed to liaise with Clean Rivers West Dorset, a newly constituted volunteer group.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that Cllr Dave Rickard be elected to act as provisional representative to Clean Rivers West Dorset.

56. FLOOD PLAN

The Town Clerk reported that a draft Flood Plan remained a work in progress, and requested that this item be deferred.

RESOLVED: that consideration of a Flood Plan be deferred.

57. COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES ON OTHER ISSUES

Cllr Sarah Carney reported that a stakeholder event, organised by Bridport Food Matters, had been held the previous week. A community hub and capacity from collaboration had been discussed.

The Town Clerk reported that a launch event for the beach wheelchair scheme had been scheduled for 31 March 2023 at 12pm at West Beach. He further reminded members that the Annual Town Meeting would be held at the Town Hall at 7pm on 21 March 2023.

Cllr Dave Rickard reported that the Town Council had been invited to hold a stall as part of Great Big Green Week, which would run from 10 to 18 June 2023.

The meeting closed at **8.28pm**.

The next meeting of this Committee will be held on 7 June 2023