

Minutes of the meeting of **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held at the Town Hall on Tuesday 27 June 2023 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Dave Bolwell – Town Mayor (in the Chair)

Cllr	Ian Bark	Gill Massey
	Kelvin Clayton	Anne Rickard
	Karen Hunt	Dave Rickard
	Julian Jones	Sarah Williams
		Steve Williams

ALSO PRESENT Will Austin (Town Clerk) and Paul Fuszard (Finance and Office Manager).

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs Palmer congratulated the Town Council on its contribution to town life. She also bemoaned the lack of visible police officers on foot, noting that they are only seen in vehicles, when responding to an emergency.

Penelope (Penny) spoke of a personal interaction with the police, that had not played out in the manner which she had expected and hoped for. The Town Mayor and Town Clerk agreed to meet with Penny, to see if they could help with her issue.

Kit White requested that Bridport Town Council should promote the area as a Plant Based Living location. Councillors then debated this at some length but felt that promoting one type of diet over another to not be appropriate.

Alan Kidson asked the meaning of the flag that had been flown for a week prior to Armed Forces Day and that the forces flag be flown for the week, next year. Following discussions, it was requested that a report be tables at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee.

John West spoke against the level of West Bay car parking charges imposed by Dorset Council, that are set to be in place for seven years.

14. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Rose Allwork, Sandra Brown, Sarah Carney, Barry Irvine, Ros Kayes, Maggie Ray and Martin Ray.

RESOLVED: that councillors Maggie Ray and Martin Ray be given a six month leave of absence for reasons of health, and caring responsibilities.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

17. STANDING ORDER 14(b)

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

18. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5 June 2023 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Dave Bolwell.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5 June 2023 be received.

(b) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 26 June 2023 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Dave Bolwell.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 26 June 2023 be received.

(c) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 12 June 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 12 June 2023 be received and adopted, and that the recommendations therein be approved, as set out below: -

(Minute 7) ANNUAL ACCOUNTS – YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

RESOLVED: that the Annual Accounts for 2022/23 be approved.

(Minute 10) APPOINTMENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: that the list of representatives on outside bodies be approved as in Appendix 1 to the minutes, subject to any additional amendments at Full Council.

(d) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 7 June 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 7 June 2023 be received and adopted, and that the recommendations therein be approved, as set out below: -

(Minute 7) BEE FRIENDLY TOWN STATUS

RESOLVED: that the request for support be noted.

(Minute 8) DIGITAL CURRENCY

RESOLVED: that Bridport Town Council takes no view on the digital currency campaign, but supports the need to retain payment choices for its citizens.

19. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2022/2023

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3822.

The Town Clerk summarised the report and highlighted:

- The Annual Internal Audit Report,
- Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), the Annual Governance Statement; and
- Section 2 of the AGAR, the Accounting Statements for the year 2022/23.
- Conflict of Interest with BDO LLP form

Each of the above were considered separately and each was moved and seconded, put to the vote and declared to be carried. It was therefore:

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Council notes the Annual Internal Auditor Report (shown at Appendix 1);
- (ii) the Council approves the Annual Governance Statement (shown at Appendix 1);
- (iii) the Council approves the Accounting Statements for 2022/2023 (shown at Appendix 1);
- (iv) the Council declares that there are no conflicts of interest with BDO LLP; and
- (v) the Annual Return be signed and submitted to the External Auditor.

RESOLVED: that the Council thanks the Finance and Officer Manager for his hard work and diligence in producing the AGAR for submission.

20. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

RESOLVED: that the subject of the open public forum at the next full council meeting shall again be policing in Bridport, following their non attendance at this meeting and that the Town Clerk requests that the Police & Crime Commissioner for Dorset, David Sidwick, also be invited to attend. It was noted that two officers have been given diary notice for attendance, to be held on Tuesday 26 September 2023 at 7:00pm.

21. **COMMUNICATIONS**

Consideration was given to the Town Mayor's engagements, ENCL: 3823.

The Town Clerk reported that:

- (1) the WI Hall windows were in need of replacement and that it is not a listed building,
- (2) Ammonite partnership had been put in touch with Foundry Lea Countryside partnership (formerly Vistry) for discussions regarding demand once the development is built, and
- (3) The Town council had been approached to potentially be awarded the inaugural Dorset's town of culture status.

The Leader of the Council reported that the chair of BLAP, Brian Wilson, had contacted him that afternoon regarding NHS dentistry in Bridport, as a project of the Health & Wellbeing Group of BLAP, for further discussion.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 26 September 2023