

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE of
Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, on Wednesday 6 September 2023 at
7.00pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Kelvin Clayton (Chairman)

Ian Bark	Dave Rickard
Karen Hunt	Steve Williams
Anne Rickard	

ALSO PRESENT: Will Austin (Town Clerk).

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no representations at the Public Forum.

11. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Sarah Carney and Ros Kayes.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

13. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 June 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record, signed by the Chairman.

The Town Clerk responded to questions regarding:

- A digital currency campaign, which had not yet taken up an offer of a market pitch; and
- Proposed highway improvements on Sea Road South, further details of which were awaited from National Highways.

14. CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Climate Action Sub Committee of 25 May 2023 be received and the decisions therein adopted.

RESOLVED: that the retention of the sub-committee be considered at the next meeting of the Environment & Social Wellbeing Committee.

15. DORSET TOWN OF CULTURE

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3830.

The Town Clerk summarised the report, a draft outline submission requesting that Bridport be Dorset's first 'Town of Culture' in 2024.

Members discussed:

- The need for an accountable body. The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council would fulfil this role.
- Which organisations would be involved. The Town Clerk advised that the main arts and cultural organisations would be directly involved, and that the wider arts and culture community in Bridport would be engaged.
- Whether Bridport Open Studios and the Bridport Literary Festival would be involved. The Town Clerk advised he would pursue this with the Project Manager.
- The need for the initiative to be inclusive of all ages and abilities, and to accord with the Rights Respecting agenda.
- The need to ensure that costs are controlled and that there should be a lasting economic benefit.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that the draft submission be approved subject to further comments from stakeholders, and that a further update be provided at a future meeting.

16. STREETSCAPE AND HERITAGE INTERPRETATION STUDY

The Town Clerk reported on the development of heritage walking routes and associated podcasts. A consultation had highlighted nine potential podcasts, and members were invited to assist in narrowing these down to six, for which funding was available.

Members considered the podcast options, and made the following comments:

- That a focus on a particular business, as suggested in one of the options, might not be appropriate;
- Rope and net would be important features, and imaginative approaches to this were needed;
- That any interpretation should not focus simply on buildings, but should highlight the people who lived and/or worked in them;
- There should be a focus on women's heritage;
- The podcasts needed to be engaging, particularly for a young audience, and youth needed to be a priority in engaging the community in this initiative;
- Bridport's historic market town status should be incorporated; and
- The following could be considered a lesser priority from the list:
 - The Monmouth Rebellion. Its importance was clear, but a focus on one historic event might not be the best use of the funding;
 - Youth. Instead, all of the podcasts should have a youth focus;
 - Artists. This would be better served as part of an arts project, than as a specifically heritage project; and
 - The railway. This could be incorporated into the Bridport Harbour podcast.

Members also highlighted the need to engage with parish councils in respect of any heritage or other walking routes that extended beyond Bridport parish.

Cllrs Ian Bark, Kelvin Clayton, Karen Hunt and Dave Rickard volunteered to engage in developing the routes and podcast themes.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Town Clerk be noted.

17. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Kelvin Clayton reported that Heather Marston, Youth Worker, had moved on from her role with Bridport Youth & Community Centre. Her post would be advertised at the end of September, and in the meantime, Gemma Thorpe was deputising.

Cllr Dave Rickard reported that he had met with the Director of Bridport Arts Centre earlier that day, and information on possible changes would be provided after a board meeting later in the month.

RESOLVED: that the reports from outside bodies be noted.

18. ISSUES FOR FUTURE REPORTS

RESOLVED: that the following be considered for inclusion in future agendas:

- The future of the Climate Action Sub-Committee;
- Graffiti and 'tagging'; and
- A pesticide-free Bridport, to consider a request received from a local group.

19. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no items to report.

The meeting closed at **8.26pm**.

The next meeting of this committee will be held on 8 November 2023