

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

PRESENT: Cllrs: Kelvin Clayton (Chairman)

Ian Bark	Ros Kayes
Sarah Carney	Anne Rickard
Karen Hunt	Dave Rickard

ALSO PRESENT: 7 members of the public, David Dixon (Project Manager & Communities Initiative Officer), and Will Austin (Town Clerk).

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr Robin Carter introduced himself as a retired GP who had lived in Bridport for 40 years. He said he had been impressed with the work of the Council's Climate Action Sub-Committee, which had reflected work he had also been trying to do. His particular interest was in setting up a community food production initiative. Land acquisition had been a problem, but he had identified a 6.5 acre area to the east of Bridport with access and permission for two polytunnels. He could provide a grant for a person or people to help, and asked the committee to consider whether this could be combined with the Town Council's work.

The Project Manager & Communities Initiative Officer advised that the latest review of the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan continued support for food security work. He had been working with the Landworkers' Alliance and others on a Food Security Plan that would shortly be reported to members for publication. This included initiatives similar to that proposed by Mr Carter and he was happy to arrange a meeting to discuss this further.

Members considered:

- Whether the land was for sale or for rent. Mr Carter advised it was for rent;
- The location of the land, which could not be confirmed at this time; and
- The apparent synergy between Mr Carter's proposal and the Town Council's aspirations. It was felt it could be a model for others to follow.

The Chairman thanked Mr Carter for his address.

### **20. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Karen Hunt and Steve Williams.

### **21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **22. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on

6 September 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

**23. CLIMATE ACTION SUB COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Climate Action Sub Committee of 28 September 2023 be received and adopted, and the following recommendation be approved:

**(Minute No. 13: Future Meetings of the Climate Action Sub-Committee)**

that the Climate Action Sub-Committee be dissolved, provided provision is made for a standing Climate Action agenda item to be included in the Environment & Social Wellbeing Committee agenda, and a task and finish group be convened for a periodic review of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

**24. ASKERS MEADOWS NATURE RESERVE PROJECT**

Consideration was given to a proposal from the Asker Nature Reserve Project, ENCL: 3841. For the Asker Nature Reserve Project group, Brian Atkinson outlined a proposed nature trail, to be funded by Wessex Water and incorporating interpretational and entrance signage.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that the proposal by the Asker Nature Reserve Project, for a nature trail at Asker Meadows, be supported.

**25. CARER SUPPORT**

Consideration was given minutes of the Carer Support Bridport, ENCL: 3842.

The Mayoress of Bridport, Bridget Bolwell, reported on her work to facilitate improved support, and coordination of support organisations involved in carer support. There was currently a focus on initiatives to provide respite care, and a range of local agencies had been engaged. Two main initiatives were being pursued: a carer support drop-in, and twice monthly sessions at Bridport Connect. Funding from the Co-op was a possibility and further discussions were ongoing. The Mayoress also wanted to encourage a focus on young carers.

Cllr Ian Bark highlighted a possible link with hardship, and the Mayoress confirmed that there may be people in Bridport who could not afford respite care.

RESOLVED: that the Mayoress be thanked for her address, and that her report be noted.

**26. CYCLING WITHOUT AGE**

Keith and Sally gave a presentation regarding Cycling without Age, a group planning to reintroduce a 'trishaw' scheme to Bridport and West Bay. Keith reported that:

- The scheme had first been established four years previously but was not currently operating;

- The group was now looking to start volunteer training;
- The facility was aimed at people who could not get out easily;
- More volunteers were sought;
- A private garage had been sourced for storage until the spring of 2024, but longer term storage was needed;
- The group was hoping to raise awareness in order to reinvigorate the scheme;
- As an example of the benefits, a man in Weymouth had been successfully helped by the scheme there; and
- There were about 45 volunteers in total.

Members discussed:

- Obstacles to the success of the scheme: Storage, volunteers, and the need for an electricity supply to charge the trishaw;
- The ability of the scheme to operate in winter;
- The fact that the group had lost its administrator;
- The camber on the Old Railway Line, which meant that the route to and from West Bay remained on West Bay Road; and
- Options for alternative storage. The Town Clerk advised he would put the group in contact with the Town Surveyor.

RESOLVED: That Keith and Sally be thanked for their address and their work, and that their report be noted.

## **27. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**

Consideration was given to a review of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, ENCL: 3844.

Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED: that the proposed revision of the Climate Emergency Action be approved.

## **28. DORSET TOWN OF CULTURE**

The Project Manager & Communities Initiative Officer reported that he had been working with the Arts Development Company (ADC) to establish Bridport as Dorset's first Town of Culture. A bid had been developed with arts and cultural organisations in Bridport and a draft circulated to councillors, with a particular focus on young people including mentoring and co-development involving youth. The ADC had asked for greater ambition to provide opportunities for funding by organisations such as the Arts Council and the National Lottery. The initial stage however would be to develop this more ambitious programme, through a £15,000 grant from the ADC, if supported by £15,000 match funding by the Town Council.

Members discussed:

- Past achievements of the 2012 Festival of Culture. The Project Manager & Communities Initiative Officer advised he would contact Cllr Ros Kayes and Tina Ellen Lee about this;
- Sponsorship to offset a match funding contribution, for example by the developers of the Foundry Lea site;
- How a Town Council funding requirement might be met;

- A need to involve the community in developing a ‘wow factor’ as described in the submission to the ADC; and
- Further refinement of the bid to reinforce the rights respecting elements.

RECOMMENDED: that, subject to detailed refinement, the bid to establish Bridport as Dorset’s First Town of Culture be approved and submitted, provided that Finance & General Purposes Committee first approves a maximum funding contribution of £15,000.

## **29. FOOD SECURITY PLAN**

Consideration was given to a report on the Food Security Plan for Bridport, ENCL: 3843. The Project Manager & Communities Initiative Officer advised that:

- The plan was part of the Council’s Climate Emergency Action Plan;
- A range of stakeholders had been involved to produce a plan covering the Bridport Local Area Partnership area, aimed at increasing local food production and quality;
- A positive meeting had been held with stakeholders in October, at which the Landworkers’ Alliance had introduced the plan;
- A consultation followed, with a good level of response that had highlighted the ‘wedge’ nature of this subject; and
- Responses were still being analysed for the final report, which was expected to be available in January 2024 and would incorporate a simple action plan.

The Project Manager & Communities Initiative Officer thanked all involved for their input.

RESOLVED: that the report of the Project Manager & Communities Initiative Officer be noted.

## **30. COMMITTEE BUDGET 2024-25**

The Town Clerk reported that the development of a Council budget for 2024-25 was under way. There had been no committee budget in 2023-24, and it was expected this would remain the case for 2024-25.

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

## **31. ISSUES FOR FUTURE REPORTS**

No issues were proposed for future reports.

## **32. CORRESPONDENCE AND UPDATES**

The Chairman reported that Gemma Thorpe had been appointed as the senior youth worker at the Bridport Youth and Community Centre.

The meeting closed at **8.32pm**.

**The next meeting of this committee will be held on 10 January 2024**