

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE of
Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield on Wednesday 6 March 2024 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Kelvin Clayton (Chairman)
Sarah Carney Anne Rickard
Karen Hunt Dave Rickard

ALSO PRESENT: David Dixon (from item 7, minute 48) and Caroline
Pearce (Project Manager & Community Initiative
Officers), Will Austin (Town Clerk) and 17 members of
the public

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Daniel Rix said that people were interested in the Council's activities, including non-governmental and other external influences. He advised that he would consider withholding Council Tax payments, and that he and others were watching councillors.

Annalisa Renee spoke on the need for debate about clean air and land. She said a 20mph speed limit would not achieve this. She referred to the United Nations agreement on sustainable development, which she considered an intrusive diktat of foreign agencies. She said that surveillance and restrictions were anti-human and a gateway to a digital currency and digital identification. She considered that the CPDC was a wolf in sheep's clothing. Cameras were everywhere, as were smart systems to monitor and influence behaviour. These controls began years ago.

Jacqueline Bellwood said that digital passports were in the final stages of planning and implementation. These would control all aspects of people's lives. A digital currency would control spending. UBI was also restrictive. These measures were all under the guise of net zero, which itself was erroneous as CO2 was not adverse. The agenda was to control everyone and everything. She asked whether the council could guarantee that residents would remain free to travel, as was their human right, and that there would be no restrictions on access to essential services. She said that all UK councils were registered with Dunne and Bradstreet in the USA, and all came under the Universal Code of Conduct. They were foreign overseas corporations providing the council's guidelines. There was a need for a conversation with the council about exiting any agreements made with the United Nations, the World Economic Forum, and the World Health Organisation.

Karin Schafer spoke about net zero, Agenda 21, and the Rio Summit 1992. She said that the Town Council had undertaken carbon literacy training in 2021, and that this was a large-scale behaviour change project to drive societal shift. It was not a town council responsibility. There had been protests by farmers whose lives were being destroyed by climate change activity. She said that the Council's Food Security Plan was pie in the sky. She said she would like to ask the Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer what the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals were, what was planned for the future of beef, lamb, and dairy farming in Dorset, and about his involvement in plans for a Dorset National Park. She also asked about his salary.

The Town Clerk advised at this point that personal questions about officers of the council, whose role was to carry out the instructions of councillors, were unacceptable and could breach Data Protection rules if answered.

Tom Rogers read a story called Net Zero Day, setting out the adverse consequences for a child named Greta arising from a very basic lifestyle, which the story implied was a requirement of a net zero lifestyle.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their addresses.

42. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ian Bark, Ros Kayes and Steve Williams.

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

44. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 January 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

45. PESTICIDE FREE TOWN

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3885, setting out a request from Bee Friendly Bridport to support a campaign to make Bridport pesticide-free.

Members discussed:

- The Town Council's existing restriction on the use of glyphosate-based herbicides on its land.
- Dorset Council's continued use of glyphosate.
- Case studies from other towns.
- Encouraging alternatives to glyphosate locally.
- A desire for clarity from Dorset Council as to which substances were used for what purpose.

RESOLVED: that the request to support the Pesticide Action Network's (PAN) Pesticide-Free Towns campaign be approved.

46. CLEAN RIVERS PROJECT

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3886, setting out the Council's involvement in a project to monitor river water quality.

The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer summarised the report, and members discussed:

- Their gratitude to officers and volunteers for the wide-ranging work undertaken to date.
- Whether the activity could be extended to monitor sewage.

- Where the results of testing went. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer advised these were posted on a system called Cartographer, part of the Westcountry CSI project overseen by the Rivers Trust.
- A concern about a lack of monitoring by the Environment Agency (EA), and a suggestion that test results could be used to influence the EA.

RESOLVED: that the Council's involvement and actions in respect of the clean rivers project be noted and approved.

47. COMMUNITY BUS

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3887, setting out work carried out to review the route and timetable for Service 7, the community bus service run by Dorset Community Transport on behalf of the Town Council.

Members welcomed the report, and

RESOLVED: that the review and accompanying changes to the community bus route and timetable, be noted and approved.

48. BRIDPORT SWIFT TOWN

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3888 setting out a proposal to declare Bridport a 'Swift Town', and associated actions to celebrate and protect the Swift population. The Project Manager & Community Initiatives Officer summarised the report, noting that the only resource requirement was to allow use of the Town Hall for promotional events. A video was shown to highlight the importance of, and the dangers to, the swift population.

Members welcomed the proposal and following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that Bridport be declared as a 'Swift Town' and a supporting activities programme be developed.

49. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

The Project Manager and Communities Initiative Officers reported that:

The Council was engaging with organisations to seek help in implementing the Food Security Plan, and had engaged with Dorset Council and the Landworkers' Alliance regarding community farms.

Bridport Area Community Housing Trust was engaging with Magna Housing regarding the potential for one and two bedroom flats for sustainable conversion at Boldwood House. Assemble would also be involved in the retrofitting of the flats. Magna's board of directors would be approached at the end of May. Young people would be involved in the project, which had exciting potential. Cllr Sarah Carney commented that she had engaged with two people who were interested in the creation of a food hub at Boldwood House.

The volunteer Energy Champions were continuing with thermal imaging work for local residents.

A consortium of local businesses had been engaged to bid for UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding, for the proposed Bridport Futures Learning Hub. The focus would be on sustainable building and farming skills.

RESOLVED: that the reports of the Project Manager and Communities Initiative Officers be noted.

50. ELECTRICAL VEHICLE CHARGING

The Chairman reported that a Dorset Council officer had contacted him regarding the development of a 'deliberative democracy' approach to meaningful engagement of residents in the issue of on-street electric vehicle charging locations. The idea that Bridport could be a pilot for this approach was discussed.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that a pilot for the use of a deliberative democracy approach be pursued.

The Chairman further reported on new superfast electric vehicle charging and a substation.

51. HERITAGE TRIALS

The Project Manager and Communities Initiative Officer reported that two heritage trails, and four associated podcasts, had been launched. He summarised the content on the council's website, and in the leaflet and podcasts.

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

52. BRIDPORT SCULPTURE TRAIL

The Project Manager and Communities Initiative Officer reported that the current three-year agreements with artists would end on 31 March 2024. He reminded members of a previous decision to pursue a different approach from the expiry of the agreements. This would retain the current trail, excluding two installations by Isla Chaney at Mountfield and the Bus Station.

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

53. COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATES ON OTHER ISSUES

Cllr Kelvin Clayton reported that he would be stepping down as Chair of the Bridport Youth and Community Centre Trust. Members thanked him for his work as Chair.

The meeting closed at **8.27pm**.

The next meeting of this Committee will be held on 5 June 2024