**BRIDPORT WEST AND ALLINGTON WARD MATTERS**

**NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON Monday 14th April 2025**

**Present:** Cllr Sarah Carney, Cllr Bev Thornton, Cllr Bourbon, 3 x members of the public.

Cllr Carney made notes

**Apologies:** Cllr Julian Jones

1. **Introduction**

Cllr Bourbon introduced himself and others to those members of the public present.

1. **Ward Issues / Topics / Information**

The following items were discussed:

* Still awaiting news from Dorset Council on our 20mph road limit application for various roads within the Ward.
* Update given on resurfacing of roads
* A new defibrillator has been installed at Hazelmead (Bridport Co-Housing next to the Hospital). This is not just for residents but also for use by the wider community of Bridport. This was provided by the British Heart Foundation with the associated electrical work and installation paid for my Hazelmead Community Energy. This is a very welcome addition to the community and has been logged with the NHS so that it is on their system should you need to call 999 for this service.
* New noticeboards have been installed at Pine View and also Dibdin View to help keep residents in touch with what is going on in the Ward. Other noticeboards are in the pipeline.
* A new small climbing structure will be installed at Cherry Tree Play area along with new paths within
* Foundry Lea — infrastructure problems and lack of environmental sustainability of the new builds, which were currently all expected to have gas boilers
* Lack of social and affordable Housing and homelessness — councillors gave an update on the work of the Housing Working Group and Cllr Thornton spoke about ideas for temporary homelessness relief, such as pods and containers. It’s important to have homelessness facilities in Bridport rather than send people to facilities elsewhere, because Bridport homeless people have all their support groups here. The new CEO of the Harmony Centre has a passion for getting homeless people into accommodation. So Harmony can work really well with the Beacon Church Community Kitchen.
* Scout hut near Dibden Estate — Resident asked if the Scout House is safe, i.e. will it remain in place and functioning for the foreseeable future?

 **ACTION: for follow up.**

* The area around, and particularly the field behind the Scout Hut — The Bridport tree-planting group had planted trees there. It is a beautiful piece of wasteland, with some unusual planting and plants. In the past a man (unknown) had attracted some funding to make it into a community garden. Young people are currently using it and while there has been some damage to an area of bushes there, it was agreed that young people need somewhere to go.

 **ACTION: Find out who owns it and look into the community garden idea —**

 **possibly refer to Kelvin Clayton as Chair of Environmental and Social Wellbeing.**

* Residents thought all the playgrounds in the area are absolutely fabulous.
* The various functions of the Tourist Information Centre were discussed and people agreed the service and staff there are brilliant.
* A good and detailed map of Bridport cycle and footpaths is available in in the independent Book Shop for £4.

 **ACTION: Ask the Tourist Information Centre if they signpost people to this.**

Although there were few people at the meeting, it was agreed that it was very useful and residents were pleased with the opportunity to attend.

1. **Details of next meeting**

To be confirmed – likely to be held in July