

Minutes of an EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held at Mountfield, Bridport on Tuesday 20 May 2025 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Anne Rickard (Chair and Town Mayor)

Cllrs	Nigel Amor	Patrick Mooney
	Ian Bark	Nigel Rawlings
	Jonathan Bourbon	Dave Rickard
	Sarah Carney	Bev Thornton
	Robert Casey	Sarah Williams
	Kelvin Clayton	Steve Williams
	Anna Killick	

ALSO PRESENT Will Austin (Town Clerk), and Sally Freemantle.

13. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bridget Bolwell, Dave Bolwell, Andrew Holdridge, Julian Jones, Ann Langridge, and David Worthington.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16. STANDING ORDER 4(k)(vi)

No questions were received pursuant to Standing Order 4(k)(vi).

17. TOWN CLERK RECRUITMENT

The Town Clerk summarised a recruitment process for his successor, which had allowed a period of just under two months for advertisement and had attracted 24 applications. A recruitment panel consisting of Cllrs Ian Bark, Dave Bolwell, Paddy Mooney, and Anne Rickard had shortlisted four candidates for an interview process over two days in May 2025, incorporating informal meetings with officers, a hybrid presentation and discussion with officers and councillors, and three panel-based interviews. The recruitment panel sat following this process and had recommended that Sally Freemantle be appointed as Town Clerk. Sally had accepted a provisional offer of employment subject to conditions, including Full Council approval. A start date had yet to be agreed.

Cllr Paddy Mooney proposed, and Cllr Ian Bark seconded, and by unanimous vote in favour it was

RESOLVED: that Sally Freemantle be appointed as Town Clerk, and that the start date and other detailed contractual arrangements be delegated to the Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee and the outgoing Town Clerk, or his nominated deputy.

Members applauded the appointment and congratulated Sally.

The meeting closed at **6.08pm**.

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 24 June 2025.