

Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING of the **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Salt House, West Bay on Monday 20 May 2024 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Anne Rickard (in the Chair for item 1)

Cllrs Nigel Amor Anna Killick
lan Bark Ann Langridge
Bridget Bolwell Patrick Mooney

Dave Bolwell
Jonathan Bourbon
Sarah Carney
Robert Casey
Kelvin Clayton

Patrick Mooney
Patrick Mooney
Nigel Rawlings
Dave Rickard
Bev Thornton
Sarah Williams
Steve Williams

Andrew Holdridge David Worthington

ALSO PRESENT Will Austin (Town Clerk), Paul Fuszard (Finance & Office

Manager), Terri Foxwell (TIC Manager), Sandy Goldsmith

(Ward Clerk and Jo Hughes (Ward Clerk).

1. <u>ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR (CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL)</u>

It was moved by Cllr Sarah Williams, seconded by Cllr Paddy Mooney and,:

RESOLVED: that Cllr Anne Rickard be elected Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year 2024/2025.

Cllr Anne Rickard signed the declaration of acceptance of office, received the chain of office, offered thanks for her election, and assumed the chair.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR (VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL)

It was moved by Cllr Anne Rickard, seconded by Cllr Ian Bark and:

RESOLVED: that Cllr Nigel Rawlings be elected Deputy Town Mayor and Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year 2024/2025.

Cllr Nigel Rawlings signed the declaration of acceptance of office, and offered thanks for his election.

3. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Town Clerk reported that all had been signed.

RESOLVED: That the councillor declarations of acceptance of office be received.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Julian Jones and Daryl Chambers, Town Surveyor.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

It was moved by Cllr Dave Bolwell, seconded by Cllr Nigel Rawlings and:

RESOLVED: that Cllr Ian Bark be elected Leader of the Council for the ensuing municipal year 2024/2025.

Cllr lan Bark signed the declaration of acceptance of office and offered thanks for his election.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2024 be confirmed as a correct record, and be signed by the Town Mayor.

8. COMMITTEES

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 22 April 2024 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Dave Bolwell.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee on 22 April 2024 be received and adopted.

9. <u>APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, SUB COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS FOR 2024/25</u>

Consideration was given to the establishment of the committees, sub committees and working groups for the ensuing municipal year 2024/25, their terms of reference and delegations as set out in the Town Council's constitution, ENCL: 3899.

RESOLVED: that the committees, sub committees and working groups be established for 2024/25, with the terms of reference and delegations, including the delegations to the Town Clerk, as set out in the Appendix to the report.

10. <u>ELECTION OF COMMITTEE, SUB COMMITTEE, AND STANDING WORKING</u> GROUP MEMBERS 2024/25

The proposed memberships had been circulated to all members, prior to the meeting, ENCL: 3900.

RESOLVED: that the membership of committees, sub committees and working groups for the municipal year 2024/25 be approved as set out at Appendix 1 to these minutes.

RESOLVED: that a review of Standing Orders should consider designating the responsibility for membership of the Market & Business Liaison Working Group to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

11. APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBER-LEVEL BODIES

Consideration was given to the appointment of any new committees or working groups, in accordance with Standing Order 3, ENCL: 3901. The report included discussion of a possible change such that the Environment & Social Wellbeing Committee be divided into two constituent committees, and the arrangements for ward-level member bodies.

Members discussed:

- The benefits and disadvantages of dividing Environment & Social Wellbeing Committee into two:
- The relative merits of ward groupings being working groups, sub-committees, or committees:
- The advantages and disadvantages a proposal to combine the business of the Bothenhampton & Walditch, and West Bay wards into a single member body;
- The use of virtual meetings, noting that this would not legally constitute member attendance at a committee or sub-committee;
- A preference for development of ward-based approaches within the ward groups rather than at Full Council or an existing standing committee; and
- The naming convention should the ward bodies be working groups.

RESOLVED: that a working group be established for each of the five council wards, reporting to Full Council, with the membership comprising ward members.

RESOLVED: that the ward working group arrangements be incorporated into a review of Standing Orders and the Scheme of Delegation.

12. STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Town Clerk reported that these documents were circulated with councillors' induction packs. A full review of both would be needed during the year, but pending that, he sought approval to continue using the current versions. There was no suggestion from the auditors that they were not fit for purpose, but both needed to be updated, to accord with the model versions published by NALC. The Clerk recommended that members confirm as per the agenda.

RESOLVED: that the Council's existing Standing Orders and Financial Regulations shall apply for the municipal year 2024-25 unless otherwise reviewed by the council.

13. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3902.

RESOLVED: : that the Council has met the eligibility criteria to use the General Power of Competence as set out in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

14. MEETINGS CALENDAR 2024/25

RESOLVED: that the calendar of meetings for 2024/25 be confirmed as circulated with the agenda.

15. MAYOR MAKING

The Town Clerk confirmed that the formal mayor making ceremony will be held in the Town Hall on Thursday 27 June 2024 at 6.30pm.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC FORUM TOPIC

The Town Mayor reported his list of engagements, ENCL: 3903.

RESOLVED: that the topic for the June Public Forum will be the Community Kitchen.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 25 June 2024. The Annual Mayor Making will be held on 27 June 2024.

Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees and Standing Working Groups for the Municipal Year 2024/25

	MAIN	F&GP (9)	Plans (9)	Environment (9)	Communities Trust Mgmt (3)	JOINT	NPJCC (5)	SUB	Staffing Appeals (3)	Best Value (9)	ORKING	Market & Business (5)	Town Centre (2 + reserve)	Total
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Party	Seats Available	Seats Taken
Lib Dem	40.5	42
Green	8.1	5
Lab	2.7	3
Ind	2.7	4
Total	54	53

R = Reserve member $\ensuremath{\mathsf{L}}$ = Leader will attend ex officio so is not included in the membership total

Minutes of the meeting of **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held at the Town Hall on Tuesday 24 September 2024 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Anne Rickard – Town Mayor (in the Chair)

Cllr Nigel Amor Ann Langridge
Ian Bark Patrick Mooney
Jonathan Bourbon Nigel Rawlings
Sarah Carney Dave Rickard
Rob Casey Bev Thornton
Kelvin Clayton Sarah Williams
Andrew Holdridge Steve Williams
Julian Jones David Worthington

Anna Killick

ALSO PRESENT 22 members of the public, 1 member of the press, Cllr Steve

Robinson (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Dorset Council), Sarah Sewell (Dorset Council), Andrew Billany (Dorset Council), Adam Fitzgerald (Dorset Council), Chris Best (Care Dorset), Paul Fuszard (Finance and Office Manager) and

Will Austin (Town Clerk).

PUBLIC FORUM

The Public Forum opened with a discussion about care provision in Bridport.

Cllr Steve Robinson, Sarah Sewell, Andrew Billany, Adam Fitzgerald, and Chris Best presented on behalf of Dorset Council and Care Dorset, providing a summary of the reasons for the closure of Sidney Gale House and plans for its replacement with a Rehabilitation and Recovery Centre, projected to be operational from January 2028. The presentation further set out plans for an Extra Care housing development at Flood Lane/Fisherman's Arms, up to the point of contract mobilisation in Autumn 2025. Updates were also provided on challenges faced in care provision, including transport, recruitment and retention, and interaction with hospitals.

Phil Lathey, a former Mayor of Bridport and town councillor, expressed his distress at the inaction and general lack of care provision for Bridport residents, in regard to not only Sidney Gale House, but day centres and the like in the area. He called on the Town Council to hold Dorset Council to account. Cllr Robinson apologised on behalf of Dorset Council and set out plans to address the concerns raised.

A member of the public, whose husband suffered with dementia and had been receiving excellent care from the Sidney Gale House staff, expressed deep disappointment at the closure of the facility and the way it had been handled. She set out the adverse effect on her husband of moving away from Bridport to a care facility elsewhere, and the difficulties that would, by extension, arise for family members who needed to drive to continue to visit. Cllr Robinson apologised and said it was humbling to hear of the experience. He explained that Sidney Gale House was unsafe. Chris Best apologised further for Care Dorset and acknowledged that not everything had been handled as it should.

Jim Tigg, a resident of Bridport, said the plans for Extra Care and other housing at the Fisherman's Arms site were unclear. Adam Fitzgerald and Andrew Billany advised that there would be housing beyond the Extra Care housing provision, including affordable housing, but that flexibility was needed in order to work with a developer.

Councillors and members of the public discussed the presentation as follows:

- A pressing need for respite care and dementia care provision in Bridport.
- Concerns that Dorset Council's original proposals for Flood Lane and Fisherman's Arms appeared to have proved unaffordable, leading to delays in care provision.
- A desire for further discussions about affordable housing provision, and a willingness from Dorset Council to schedule an informal meeting with town councillors.
- A need for key worker housing.
- The funding available for Extra Care housing, reported by Dorset Council attendees as being £18m for the scheme as a whole.
- A recognition by Dorset Council of a history of 'less than success' in care provision, and a willingness to redouble efforts.
- Deep concerns for the experience of the member of the public who had spoken earlier about the impact on her husband.
- The need to consider wider infrastructure provision when developing services in support of an increasing and more elderly population, with significant health needs.

The Mayor thanked all present for their input to the discussion.

The Open Public Forum followed. A member of the public spoke in support of a motion tabled with the agenda on housing need, and welcomed a cross-party consensus by the proposer and seconder. There was a housing emergency in Bridport affecting young people in particular, with many having to leave the area, and this in turn affected the sustainability of the community more generally. Social housing for rent was needed and the motion highlighted a need for action, and accorded with the Liberal Democrat manifesto commitment to the provision of affordable housing.

Local resident Jim Tigg reported on the work of a working group set up by Bridport Local Area Partnership to look at housing need. It was chaired by Paul Everall, and Mr Tigg was speaking on his behalf. Terms of reference had been agreed and the group's work would include consolidation of evidence and liaison with stakeholders. The work would complement that of others and the challenge was to resource it. On a personal note, Mr Tigg added his support for the motion on housing need.

Glenn Crawford, also a local resident, spoke about his support for a primary residence planning restriction on new homes. He reflected on evidence and local opinion, suggesting a significant detrimental local impact from holiday and second homes on the available housing stock. A previous attempt to include a policy in the Neighbourhood Plan had been deemed not to provide sufficient supporting evidence and had been deferred, pending a review of the Plan. This review was approaching and resources were needed to develop a policy acceptable to the plan

inspector. It would only affect new build houses and therefore would not diminish the tourism economy, but would increase housing supply from new homes. He urged the Town Council to pursue the idea.

The Town Clerk read a statement provided by a member of the public who was present, but did not wish to speak: There was a need for housing for single working people, who were paying high private rents, Council Tax, and energy bills on minimum rates of pay. Most had to pay child maintenance in addition. This group of people seemed to be left out and explained an increase in the number of homeless adults.

A member of the public spoke in favour of social housing provision, and urged a new outlook from a new council. Councils had been largely reactive to developers, although the Tanyard and Dibdin Close were examples of proactivity in housing, that should be considered when looking at social housing. The cost of housing benefit would reduce if more social housing was provided, with a consequent reduction in Council Tax costs for all; it was in everyone's interests to pursue this.

The Mayor thanked all present for their contributions.

26. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bridget Bolwell and Dave Bolwell.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

28. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

29. STANDING ORDER 4(k)(vi)

There were no questions pursuant to standing order 4(k)(vi).

30. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2 September 2024 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Ian Bark.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2 September 2024 be received.

(b) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 23 September 2024 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor lan Bark.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 23 September 2024 be received and adopted.

(c) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 9 September 2024 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Paddy Mooney.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 2 September 2024 be received and adopted, and that the recommendations therein be approved, as set out below: -

(Minute 26) FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2024/25 – 1ST REVISION

RESOLVED: that the 1st revision of the estimates for the year 2024/25 be approved.

(Minute 27) BUDGET PLANNING 2025/26 (the agenda stated 2024/25)

RESOLVED: that the membership of the Budget Working Group shall be

- (i) Cllrs Ian Bark, Andrew Holdridge, Ann Langridge, Paddy Mooney and Sarah Williams, and
- (ii) Cllr Anna Killick, as appointed at this Full Council meeting.

(d) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 4 September 2024 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Kelvin Clayton.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 4 September 2024 be received and adopted.

31. MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR ANNA KILLICK

A motion was proposed by Cllr Anna Killick and seconded by Cllr Kelvin Clayton, as follows: -

The Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan's Housing Need Assessment 2019 identified the number and type of housing needed to meet the needs of local people. However, the prevailing national and local models of housing provision have consistently failed to meet these needs.

The Neighbourhood Plan showed Bridport to be demographically unbalanced. The CPRE has highlighted that Dorset's median age and proportion of over 65s is one of the highest in England, fuelled by inward migration. Meanwhile, there remains an acute shortage of social housing and private rentals and over 4000 on the Dorset Council Housing Needs Register.

Proposals for the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) show no signs of resolving the flaws that perpetuate the affordable housing crisis and, instead, further reduce the powers of local planning authorities to be proactive in bringing about developments of one and two bedroom dwellings for social rent that are so desperately needed by local residents.

Secure, warm and dry housing is a basic human need. If, as councillors, we fail to address this need we are seriously failing our local residents.

Therefore, Bridport Town Council commits to:

- helping to develop and support local Community Land Trusts to build social housing, such as is currently being achieved by the Dorchester Town Councilbacked CLT, which has just secured planning permission for 15 two bed flats in Dorchester in partnership with housing associations.
- open a continuing dialogue with Magna and other local housing associations to help with the delivery of social housing and support of residents
- help to identify and propose potential sites for new, solely, social housing developments
- include in the Neighbourhood Plan a provision of primary residence requirement for new homes

And Bridport Town Council calls upon Dorset Council to:

- Lobby central government, and to work in partnership with other local planning authorities to campaign for, greater devolved planning powers that allow them to develop a Local Plan that meets the needs of local residents rather than facilitating the growth of profits for national development companies. These powers should allow the local planning authority to be proactive in determining the type, scale and location of any new development rather than being forced to react to plans put forward by developers.
- Commit to over half of the building of new homes over the next five years to be social or affordable housing for rent and shared ownership.
- Dedicate revenue received from doubling second home council tax to a specific social housing fund.
- Develop a policy that urgently brings about the building of social housing for rent, beginning with land owned by Dorset Council. These developments could either be directly developed by the council or delivered by using and adapting the successful methods currently being used by other local authorities, for instance by:
 - creating a formal working partnership with local housing associations (e.g. Magna).
 - creating a Dorset Council Development Corporation and/or exploring partnering with Somerset Council's existing Development Corporation to share resources and expertise.
 - investigating grant funding from Homes England, and new not-for-profit and public/private partnerships.

Cllr Killick spoke in support of the motion, setting out the adverse impact of the housing crisis and calling for a more positive approach by both Bridport Town Council and Dorset Council.

Cllr Clayton said it was good to hear support for the motion during the Public Forum and that it would be surprising if there was significant disagreement over housing need.

Members discussed the motion, including:

- The rationale for a prescriptive proportion of social or affordable housing as set out at bullet point 6 of the motion.
- Examples of council house building programmes elsewhere, including in Barking & Dagenham and Bristol.
- Some concerns about a lack of recognition of Town Council efforts to date, and the motion's major focus on social rented housing as the main solution.
- A need for an updated Housing Needs Assessment.
- A concern that actions proposed in the motion were unrealistic and 'sloganising'.
- Actions by Dorset Council to influence national policy, and to develop a new Local Plan and Housing Strategy.
- The potential for better use of land locally for housing provision.
- The importance of housing associations in delivering housing quickly.
- A concern that the motion did not go far enough, and that the council's five-year plan should be agreed prior to setting the motion as policy.
- Concerns that the issue of housing need was being politicised unnecessarily and that cross-party consensus was essential.
- A suggestion that the collaborative approach taken to the Climate Emergency Action would provide a good model for Town Council action.
- A desire for more proactive effort, rather than waiting for the new government to deliver, and for more success than had been achieved locally by community land trusts.
- Disappointment among some councillors that there had not been more discussion prior to the tabling of a motion, and that further collaborative work should be carried out to achieve a consensual wording.

The meeting paused at 9.11pm for a comfort break and resumed at 9.13pm. Further discussions followed regarding the detailed wording of the motion and two friendly amendments were considered and approved, as follows: -

RESOLVED: that

- (i) bullet point 6 be deleted; and
- (ii) at bullet point 4, the word "include" be replaced by the words "commit to consider including".

The substantive motion as amended was then put to a vote, and **fell**, with voting being five in favour, twelve against, and one abstention.

32. REPORTS

Dorset Police: None received

Dorset Council Members: Cllr Sarah Williams welcomed good work being carried out by the new administration.

Town Council Wards: For Central Ward, Cllr Sarah Williams reported on work by local businessman Roy Gregory to display posters in empty town centre premises advertising St Michael's Trading Estate.

33. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2023/2024

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3929, advising that the external auditor's reports for Bridport Town Council and the former Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council had been received and highlighted no matters of legal or regulatory concern. A similar report had already been received and approved by Finance & General Purposes Committee for the former Bradpole Parish Council, and no such report was expected for the former Allington Parish Council, as a certificate of exemption had been submitted.

RESOLVED: that the external auditor's report and certificate for 2023/24, for both the former Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council, and Bridport Town Council, be approved.

RESOLVED: that it be noted that no report is expected for the former Allington Parish Council.

34. DORSET COUNCIL SURVEY

Councillors considered ENCL: 3929, a draft response to a survey published by Dorset Council in respect of its proposed corporate plan.

RESOLVED: that the response to the survey be approved as tabled.

Cllr Sarah Williams requested that her abstention be noted for the minutes.

35. REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

At the request of committees, members considered nominations for representatives to outside bodies. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED: that the following Town Council appointments be made:

- (i) Allington Hill & Cooper's Wood & Field Community Group: Cllr Jonathan Bourbon, with Cllr Bev Thornton as a reserve.
- (ii) Magna Housing: Cllr Paddy Mooney, with Cllr Sarah Carney as a reserve, unless Magna Housing is willing to have two representatives in which case both shall be main representatives.
- (iii) Precision Football Arena: Cllr Rob Casey.
- (iv) Pymore Village Management Company: Cllr Bev Thornton.
- (v) National Highways: Cllr Andy Holdridge.

36. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

RESOLVED: that the subject of the open public forum at the next full council meeting shall be Social Housing, including representation from Dorset Council.

37. COMMUNICATIONS

Consideration was given to the Town Mayor's engagements, ENCL: 3931.

The Leader of the Council reported that all Service Level Agreement discussions had been completed. The supported groups were valued for their work, but the council had also faced some challenging decisions.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm.

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 26 November 2024

Minutes of the meeting of **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held at the Town Hall on Tuesday 25 March 2025 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Anne Rickard - Town Mayor (in the Chair)

Cllr Nigel Amor Anna Killick
lan Bark Ann Langridge
Jonathan Bourbon Patrick Mooney
Sarah Carney Nigel Rawlings
Rob Casey Dave Rickard
Kelvin Clayton Steve Williams
Andy Holdridge David Worthington

Julian Jones

ALSO PRESENT Will Austin (Town Clerk), 4 members of the public, Sarah

Howard (NHS Dorset), Damien Kendrick (Dorset Healthcare),

and PCSO Pete Smith (Dorset Police).

PUBLIC FORUM

PCSO Pete Smith introduced himself as a member of the Neighbourhood Policing team covering the local area over the previous 17 years. Current priorities were antisocial driving in West Bay, antisocial behaviour in Borough Gardens, a specific case of antisocial behaviour involving a local resident, and an ongoing inquiry into a dog attack. PCSO Smith noted that he was the only officer on duty in Bridport at the time of the meeting. Councillors discussed a possible Community Speed Watch initiative at Victoria Grove, pavement parking, parking outside schools, and speeding by electric bikes.

Cllr David Worthington introduced the Public Forum topic for the evening, "the impact of the population increase arising from the Foundry Lea development on health and care provision" and introduced Sarah Howard of NHS Dorset.

The Town Clerk read a statement from Dr Andy Finucane of Ammonite Health Partnership, who was unable to attend. This set out an expected 10% increase in demand for services; changes made in the last two years that would enable better responses to this pressure; some additional pressures expected in the short term with funding for additional patients lagging behind service provision; and concerns about the Medical Centre's ability to recruit into reception, phlebotomy, HCA, and administrative roles due to high housing costs.

Ms Howard outlined national health policy announcements including a 50% reduction in the running costs of the Integrated Care Board. She introduced a plan for integrated neighbourhood teams, which were to provide better coordination of local health provision with reduced barriers and bureaucracy. The teams involved had previously worked in 'silos' and were now getting to know each other. Ms Howard outlined funding provision from the Foundry Lea development to enhance the Medical Centre building, and additional roles at the centre including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and paramedics.

Damien Kendrick of Dorset Healthcare described joint working to support patients and residents. There was a move away from referrals to ensure the right professional at the right time, with a particular focus on frailty that would learn from other areas. There were good working relationships and co-location at Bridport Hospital. He expected an impact from Foundry Lea including on District Nurses, the Minor Injuries Unit, and mental health services, but was unable to provide figures.

Cllr Sarah Carney read statements from residents who were unable to attend, including from social media posts, many focusing on the provision of £225,000 in Section 106 funding from the development, which Cllr Carney advised would be increased to account for inflation. There were concerns that the funding would not be sufficient to cater for physical and mental health impacts, and an increase in annual funding was also needed. ADVEARSE had thanked the Town Council for raising the matter.

Councillors and others present discussed and queried:

- How the Section 106 funding would be used, and it was noted that this funding
 was a contribution towards infrastructure that would be accompanied by an
 additional 'per patient' amount for ongoing costs of local healthcare.
- The delivery of over 300 affordable homes in the development, and the need to maximise the availability of social rented accommodation.
- Confusion over the estimates for the population increase arising from the development, with estimates ranging from 1,800 to over 3,000. Concerns were expressed that healthcare providers were working on the lower estimate, which was considered to be a significant understatement of the likely increase.
- The pressures arising from Foundry Lea, the need for growth in healthcare provision, improved working methods, and early interventions.
- Current difficulties in provision of sufficient NHS dentistry services, and concerns that the development would exacerbate the situation.
- Measuring success in meeting the development's demands, which was aid to be by staffing and productivity levels, patients feeling in control, and a quality of life measure.
- The need for joint working to include Dorset Council, especially on planning and infrastructure issues.

The Mayor thanked all those attending and participating in the Public Forum.

62. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bridget Bolwell, Dave Bolwell, and Sarah Williams.

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

64. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

Responding to a question from Cllr Nigel Rawlings, the Town Clerk advised that discussions had been held with a local charity that had agreed in principle to manage the operational aspects of the Beach Wheelchair Scheme.

65. STANDING ORDER 4(k)(vi)

There were no questions pursuant to standing order 4(k)(vi).

66. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24 February 2025 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor lan Bark.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24 February 2025 be received and adopted.

(b) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 17 March 2025 were presented by the Committee Chairman.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 17 March 2025 be received and adopted.

(c) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 10 March 2025 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Paddy Mooney.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 10 March 2025 be received and adopted, and that the recommendations therein be approved, as set out below: -

(Minute 66(c)) BEST VALUE & SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE

(Minute 36) Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

RESOLVED: that a Governance Working Group be established, and

that the membership be Cllrs Ian Bark, Sarah Carney, Paddy Mooney, Jonathan Bourbon, and Rob Casey,

with meetings to be held in the evening only.

(d) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 4 March 2025 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Kelvin Clayton.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 4 March 2025 be received and adopted.

It was noted that Cllr Jonathan Bourbon was present at this meeting. The Town Clerk advised that this omission would be corrected at the next meeting of the committee.

67. <u>ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR, DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE</u> COUNCIL 2025/2026

Cllr Paddy Mooney proposed, and Cllr Nigel Rawlings seconded Cllr Anne Rickard as Mayor Elect for the municipal year 2025/26, and there being no other nominations it was then

RESOLVED: that Cllr Anne Rickard be approved as Mayor Elect for the municipal year 2025/26, to be confirmed at the Annual Town Council meeting.

Cllr Nigel Rawlings proposed, and Cllr Ann Langridge seconded Cllr Jonathan Bourbon as Deputy Mayor Elect for the municipal year 2025/26, and there being no other nominations it was then

RESOLVED: that Cllr Jonathan Bourbon be approved as Deputy Mayor Elect for the municipal year 2025/26, to be confirmed at the Annual Town Council meeting.

Cllr Andrew Holdridge proposed, and Cllr David Worthington seconded Cllr Ian Bark as Leader Elect for the municipal year 2025/26, and there being no other nominations it was then

RESOLVED: that Cllr lan Bark be approved as Leader Elect for the municipal year 2025/26, to be confirmed at the Annual Town Council meeting.

68. HOUSING WORKING GROUP

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3994 regarding the establishment of a working group in support of the Town Council's housing objectives.

RESOLVED: that a Housing Working Group be established, comprising six members and reporting to Full Council, the membership to be Cllrs Sarah Carney, Kelvin Clayton, Anna Killick, Paddy Mooney, Bev Thornton, and David Worthington.

RESOLVED: that the remit of the Housing Working Group be as follows:

In line with the motion passed by Full Council on 21 January and the 2025-9 Fiveyear Plan which identified the provision of social and affordable housing as the Council's main priority:

 To develop policy and undertake actions in order to pro-actively work with local authorities, developers, housing associations, community land trusts, charities and other organisations, to do everything possible to reduce the number of people on the housing register and to ensure that as much additional and genuinely affordable housing is provided on appropriate, available land, with

- social rent housing being given the highest priority on the re-development of brownfield and other development sites in the area.
- To work to influence Dorset Council and other partners to prioritise a redevelopment scheme for the Bus Station site that includes a social housing element, incorporating St Michael's, Plottingham, and Boldwood House, into a wider vision for Bridport.
- To work closely and coordinate with the work of the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan (BANP) light review 2020–36 and the Joint Councils Committee (JCC).
- To champion the development of homeless emergency accommodation and develop a homelessness strategy as part of our housing strategy.
- To lobby for the development of the Care Village and South Street sites to seek optimum use and capacity of this and other council-owned land to include social rent housing and infrastructure contributions.
- Champion retrofit and carbon reduction initiatives with housing associations, private landlords, local community land trusts and developers. Work with others to encourage government to lift EPC ratings on private landlords across the town.
- To work, also with residential and commercial landlords to improve the availability, standards and affordability of rental accommodation in the town.
- To promote the need for all our new housing to be supported by improvements in local services and infrastructure.
- Periodically to make reports and recommendations to Council, and undertake specific housing related projects as requested by the Council.

69. REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

No reports were received from councillor representatives to outside bodies.

70. REPORTS

It was noted that Dorset Police had provided a report during the Public Forum prior to the meeting. No Dorset Council members were present to provide reports, and there were no reports from Bridport Town Council ward members.

71. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

RESOLVED: that Bridport Business Chamber be invited to the next Public Forum in June 2025 to contribute to a discussion about the business community.

Members highlighted farming and local food, and the needs of Bridport's young adults, as possible topics for subsequent meetings.

72. ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were reported for information:

(1) The Town Mayor reported her list of engagements, ENCL: 3995.

RESOLVED: that the Mayor's engagements be noted with thanks.

- (2) The Town Clerk reported on arrangements for recruitment of his successor.
- (3) Cllr Andrew Holdridge reported that a Smartphone Movement meeting would be held at the Town Hall on 26 March 2025 at 7pm.

73. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

RESOLVED: that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

74. HONORARY TOWNSPERSON

The Town Clerk reported on a nomination for the status of Honorary Townsperson, ENCL: 3996. Following consideration of the report it was

RESOLVED: that that the award of the Honorary Townsperson honour to Monique Pasche be approved, and that the necessary arrangements for the special meeting and presentation ceremony, as set out in the Town Council's policy, be delegated to Clirs Paddy Mooney, Ian Bark, and Anne Rickard.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 8 May 2025



Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING of the **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Salt House, West Bay on Monday 20 May 2024 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT Cllr Anne Rickard (in the Chair for item 1)

Cllrs Nigel Amor Anna Killick

Ian Bark Ann Langridge Bridget Bolwell Patrick Mooney Dave Bolwell Nigel Rawlings Jonathan Bourbon Dave Rickard Sarah Carney **Bev Thornton** Sarah Williams Robert Casey Kelvin Clayton Steve Williams Andrew Holdridge **David Worthington**

ALSO PRESENT Will Austin (Town Clerk), Paul Fuszard (Finance & Office

Manager), Terri Foxwell (TIC Manager), Sandy Goldsmith

(Ward Clerk and Jo Hughes (Ward Clerk).

1. <u>ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR (CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL)</u>

It was moved by Cllr Sarah Williams, seconded by Cllr Paddy Mooney and,:

RESOLVED: that Cllr Anne Rickard be elected Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year 2024/2025.

Cllr Anne Rickard signed the declaration of acceptance of office, received the chain of office, offered thanks for her election, and assumed the chair.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR (VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL)

It was moved by Cllr Anne Rickard, seconded by Cllr Ian Bark and:

RESOLVED: that Cllr Nigel Rawlings be elected Deputy Town Mayor and Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing municipal year 2024/2025.

Cllr Nigel Rawlings signed the declaration of acceptance of office, and offered thanks for his election.

3. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Town Clerk reported that all had been signed.

RESOLVED: That the councillor declarations of acceptance of office be received.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Julian Jones and Daryl Chambers, Town Surveyor.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. <u>ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL</u>

It was moved by Cllr Dave Bolwell, seconded by Cllr Nigel Rawlings and:

RESOLVED: that Cllr Ian Bark be elected Leader of the Council for the ensuing municipal year 2024/2025.

Cllr lan Bark signed the declaration of acceptance of office and offered thanks for his election.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2024 be confirmed as a correct record, and be signed by the Town Mayor.

8. COMMITTEES

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 22 April 2024 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Dave Bolwell.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee on 22 April 2024 be received and adopted.

9. <u>APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, SUB COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS FOR 2024/25</u>

Consideration was given to the establishment of the committees, sub committees and working groups for the ensuing municipal year 2024/25, their terms of reference and delegations as set out in the Town Council's constitution, ENCL: 3899.

RESOLVED: that the committees, sub committees and working groups be established for 2024/25, with the terms of reference and delegations, including the delegations to the Town Clerk, as set out in the Appendix to the report.

10. <u>ELECTION OF COMMITTEE, SUB COMMITTEE, AND STANDING WORKING</u> GROUP MEMBERS 2024/25

The proposed memberships had been circulated to all members, prior to the meeting, ENCL: 3900.

RESOLVED: that the membership of committees, sub committees and working groups for the municipal year 2024/25 be approved as set out at Appendix 1 to these minutes.

RESOLVED: that a review of Standing Orders should consider designating the responsibility for membership of the Market & Business Liaison Working Group to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

11. APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBER-LEVEL BODIES

Consideration was given to the appointment of any new committees or working groups, in accordance with Standing Order 3, ENCL: 3901. The report included discussion of a possible change such that the Environment & Social Wellbeing Committee be divided into two constituent committees, and the arrangements for ward-level member bodies.

Members discussed:

- The benefits and disadvantages of dividing Environment & Social Wellbeing Committee into two;
- The relative merits of ward groupings being working groups, sub-committees, or committees;
- The advantages and disadvantages a proposal to combine the business of the Bothenhampton & Walditch, and West Bay wards into a single member body;
- The use of virtual meetings, noting that this would not legally constitute member attendance at a committee or sub-committee;
- A preference for development of ward-based approaches within the ward groups rather than at Full Council or an existing standing committee; and
- The naming convention should the ward bodies be working groups.

RESOLVED: that a working group be established for each of the five council wards, reporting to Full Council, with the membership comprising ward members.

RESOLVED: that the ward working group arrangements be incorporated into a review of Standing Orders and the Scheme of Delegation.

12. STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Town Clerk reported that these documents were circulated with councillors' induction packs. A full review of both would be needed during the year, but pending that, he sought approval to continue using the current versions. There was no suggestion from the auditors that they were not fit for purpose, but both needed to be updated, to accord with the model versions published by NALC. The Clerk recommended that members confirm as per the agenda.

RESOLVED: that the Council's existing Standing Orders and Financial Regulations shall apply for the municipal year 2024-25 unless otherwise reviewed by the council.

13. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3902.

RESOLVED: : that the Council has met the eligibility criteria to use the General Power of Competence as set out in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

14. MEETINGS CALENDAR 2024/25

RESOLVED: that the calendar of meetings for 2024/25 be confirmed as circulated with the agenda.

15. MAYOR MAKING

The Town Clerk confirmed that the formal mayor making ceremony will be held in the Town Hall on Thursday 27 June 2024 at 6.30pm.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC FORUM TOPIC

The Town Mayor reported his list of engagements, ENCL: 3903.

RESOLVED: that the topic for the June Public Forum will be the Community Kitchen.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 25 June 2024. The Annual Mayor Making will be held on 27 June 2024.

Membership of Committees, Sub-Committees and Standing Working Groups for the Municipal Year 2024/25

Total		6	6	6	ю		ις		ю	6		ro.	2+R	54+2R
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<u>ded</u> <u>IntoT</u>		-	-	0	0		0		0	-		0	œ	3+R
- Killick Killick		•	•							•			œ	
Green Lotal		-	-	2	0		-		0	0		0	0+R	5+R
neilut				•									œ	
Kelvin			•	•			•							
Rob		•												
Lib Dem Total		7	9	7	2		4		က	7		4	2	42
David Worthingt			•	•										
Steve				•						•				
Sarah		•			•				•			•	•	
Nomton Thomton				•										
Dave				•						•				
Anne Rickard		•	•	•					•	•				100
Nigel Rawlings		•										•	•	
Paddy		•	•				•			•				
Ann Langridge		•								•		•		
Mandrew Holdridge		•					•			•				
Jonathan Bourbon			•	•	•		•			•				
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	MAIN	F&GP (9)	Plans (9)	Environment (9)	Communities Trust Mgmt (3)	JOINT	NPJCC (5)	ITTEES	Staffing Appeals (3)	Best Value (9)	WORKING	Market & Business (5)	Centre serve)	

Party	Seats Available	Seats Taken
Lib Dem	40.5	42
Green	8.1	5
Lab	2.7	3
Ind	2.7	4
Total	54	53

R = Reserve member $\ensuremath{\mathsf{L}}$ = Leader will attend ex officio so is not included in the membership total

Bridport Town Council Election Results 2 May 2024, reproduced from https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/parish-and-town-councils-within-the-dorsetcouncil-area-elections-on-2-may-2024-contested?redirect=%2Fcouncillors-committees-elections%2Felections-and-voting%2Felectionresults%2Fresults-of-elections-referenda-and-polls

Bothenhampton and Walditch Ward (3 seats)

Number of votes received per candidate (if elected, the word "ELECTED" appear against the number of votes):

Results for Bridport Town Council - Bothenhampton and Walditch Ward

Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of votes
BOLWELL Bridget Catherine (commonly known as Bridget Bolwell)	Liberal Democrat	506 ELECTED
BOURNE Isabel Claire	Green Party	380
BRIGDEN Elisabeth Christina	Labour Party	211
HOLDRIDGE Andrew Robert George	Liberal Democrat	453 ELECTED
RICKARD Edwina Anne (commonly known as Anne Rickard)	Liberal Democrat	482 ELECTED

Number of ballot papers rejected:

Reason	Number rejected
Want of an official mark	0
Voting for more candidates than voter was entitled to	2
Writing or mark by which voter could be identified	0
Being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	30
Rejected in part	0
Total	32

Number of vacant seats, electorate, ballot papers issued and turnout:

- vacant seats: 3
- electorate: 1844
- ballot papers issued: 822
 - turnout: 44.58%



Bradpole Ward (5 seats)Number of votes received per candidate (if elected, the word "ELECTED" appear against the number of votes):

Results for Bridport Town Council - Bradpole Ward

Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of votes
AMOR Nigel Matthew	Liberal Democrat	526 ELECTED
BARK lan Richard	Liberal Democrat	507 ELECTED
CASEY Robert Sean	Green Party	477 ELECTED
CHILCOTT Lestie James Neil (commonly known as Neil Chilcott)		258
KILLICK Anna Victoria (commonly known as Anna Killick)	Labour Party	288 ELECTED
MOONEY Patrick Gerald Peter (commonly known as Paddy Mooney)	Liberal Democrat	526 ELECTED

Number of ballot papers rejected:

Reason	Number rejected
Want of an official mark	0
Voting for more candidates than voter was entitled to	0
Writing or mark by which voter could be identified	0
Being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	19
Rejected in part	0
Total	19

Number of vacant seats, electorate, ballot papers issued and turnout:

vacant seats: 5

electorate: 2579 ballot papers issued: 856 turnout: 33.19%

Bridport Central Ward (5 seats)Number of votes received per candidate (if elected, the word "ELECTED" appear against the number of votes):

Results for Bridport Town Council - Bridport Central Ward

Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of votes
CHAPMAN Stephen Douglas (commonly known as Steve Chapman)	Labour Party	323
CLAYTON Kelvin Charles	Green Party	586 ELECTED
COOK Alani Florence (commonly known as Alani Cook)	Independent Young Person	282
DAVIES-COATES Josef Daniel	Independent United Diversity Bridport	133
HART David Philip Thomas	Labour Party	288
RAWLINGS Nigel Charles (commonly known as Nigel Rawlings)	Liberal Democrat	483 ELECTED
RICKARD David Gordon (commonly known as Dave Rickard)	Liberal Democrat	482 ELECTED
WILLIAMS Sarah Jane (commonly known as Sarah Williams)	Liberal Democrat	590 ELECTED
WORTHINGTON David William Greville (commonly known as David Worthington)	Liberal Democrat	444 ELECTED

Number of ballot papers rejected:

Reason	Number rejected
Want of an official mark	0
Voting for more candidates than voter was entitled to	0
Writing or mark by which voter could be identified	0
Being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	37

Number of ballot papers rejected:

Reason	Number rejected
Rejected in part	0
Total	37

Number of vacant seats, electorate, ballot papers issued and turnout:

vacant seats: 5electorate: 2645ballot papers issued: 1006turnout: 38.03%

Bridport West and Allington Ward (5 seats)

Number of votes received per candidate (if elected, the word "ELECTED" appear against the number of votes):

Results for Bridport Town Council - Bridport West and Allington Ward

Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of votes
BOURBON Jonathan André	Liberal Democrat	486 ELECTED
CARNEY Sarah Anne	Independent	333 ELECTED
DOMMETT Michael David	Liberal Democrat	321
HAMMOND Neil Fraser	Labour Party	282
JONES Julian Stephen Langton	Green Party	440 ELECTED
NICHOLLS Richard Howard	Labour Party	283
THORNTON Beverley (commonly known as Bev Thornton)	Liberal Democrat	406 ELECTED
WILLIAMS Stephen Charles John (commonly known as Steve Williams)	Liberal Democrat	426 ELECTED

Number of ballot papers rejected:

Reason	Number rejected
Want of an official mark	0
Voting for more candidates than voter was entitled to	0
Writing or mark by which voter could be identified	0
Being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	9
Rejected in part	0
Total	9

Number of vacant seats, electorate, ballot papers issued and turnout:

- vacant seats: 5
 - electorate: 3030
- ballot papers issued: 810
 - turnout: 26.73%

West Bay Ward (2 seats)

Number of votes received per candidate (if elected, the word "ELECTED" appear against the number of votes):

Results for Bridport Town Council - West Bay Ward

Candidate	Description (if any)	Number of votes
BOLWELL David John (commonly known as Dave Bolwell)	Liberal Democrat	264 ELECTED
EDWARDS Richard John (commonly known as Richard Edwards)	Green Party	150
LANGRIDGE Ann Elizabeth (commonly known as Ann Langridge)	Liberal Democrat	207 ELECTED

Number of ballot papers rejected:

Reason	Number rejected
Want of an official mark	0
Voting for more candidates than voter was entitled to	0
Writing or mark by which voter could be identified	0
Being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	25
Rejected in part	0
Total	25

Number of vacant seats, electorate, ballot papers issued and turnout:

vacant seats: 2

electorate: 1027

ballot papers issued: 386

turnout: 37.59%







Certificate in Local Council Administration

PG 2012

This is to certify that

Will Austin

has been awarded a

Pass

in the above qualification

14th June 2012

Resta

Frank Johnston

L.L.B. (Hons). Barrister-at-Law

CHIEF VERIFIER, CILCA,

CHAIRMAN, MONITORING &

VERIFICATION BOARD







Certificate in Local Council Administration

Section 7, general power of competence

This is to certify that,

Will Austin

Has attended training on the general power of competence

Date

11 May 2012

Frank Johnston
L.L.B (Hons). Barrister-at-Law
CHIEF VERIFIER, CiLCA