**BRIDPORT WEST AND ALLINGTON WARD MATTERS**

**NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON Monday 7th July 2025**

**Present:** Cllr Julian Jones, Cllr Bev Thornton, Cllr Bourbon, 7 x members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllr Sarah Carney

1. **Introduction**

Cllr Thornton introduced herself and others to those members of the public present.

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

**20mph Application -** Still awaiting news from Dorset Council on our 20mph application for various roads within the Ward – this is in the system and could take many months before it goes to public consultation. Those present were glad that the application was in the system and would be moving forward as had grave concerns about the level of speeds on roads and the potential for accidents.

**Dogs in Play Areas / Out of control dogs on Allington Hill -** Residents have queried allowing dogs on leads to walk through the Peter Foote Play Area. Unfortunately, even this is not allowed due to the policies that BTC and Dorset Council have in place which state that NO DOGS are allowed in enclosed children’s play areas or on marked sports pitches. All public spaces within the administrative area covered by Dorset Council are subject to a Public Spaces Protection Order.

Allington Hill – there have been issues with out of control dogs on Allington Hill. Cathey Harvey gave more information on this regarding a fawn that had been injured by a loose dog that had no owner nearby. Unfortunately there have been other incidents, including owners not picking up after their dogs - but it is the minority that are causing the problem. Dorset Council did put in place plastic signage around the vicinity regarding picking up after your dogs but these were vandalised within 48hrs. Ward Clerk can highlight this area to the Dog Warden as an ongoing area of concern. Cathy is thinking about looking for a volunteer ‘Dog Champion’ to educate owners on the hill. Ward Clerk will speak to BTC about this.

**Magna Walkaround Update -** Cllrs were invited on a walkaround by Magna where various issues were raised. Unfortunately, we are not necessarily able to request walkarounds as they choose to invite different agencies/people each time.

Issues within this Ward that were raised in the areas they visited were:

**Princess Road Community Engagement** - Magna is struggling with

rubbish and mess in Princess Road. There is virtually no distinction between rubbish and recycling, thus the rubbish bins become overwhelmed between the fortnightly connections. Magna are concerned that they may have to spend extra resources on trying to keep it tidy. This would result in increased service charges (potentially picked up by the tax payer via housing benefits). They are planning a community event in December to try to bring residents together around this issue. We have asked if the Town Council can be involved in this. We are looking at doing our Ward’s next Mass Litter Pick in this area.

**Skilling Oval —** When will the leak at Skilling Oval be fixed, residents are asking - Housing officers insist this is a Wessex Water issue. They say all shared drains are Wessex Water jurisdiction. Bridport Town Council are in touch with the relevant people and are taking this forward.

**Communication Problems** – It was brought up about the difficulties we have in getting hold of Magna or getting them to take action where needed. They have picked up on the lack of response and will take it up with the Customer Contact Manager

**Mass litter pick -** This took place in May and within this Ward the areas attended to were Court Orchard Play Area and then to Flaxhayes/North Mills Play Area. We hope to go to Skilling for the next Mass Litter Pick which is yet to be organised by others

**Update on Otter Bend (off Dibdin View) –** Amy had a walkaround with Caroline Pearce

(BTC) **-** Otter Bend is being tended to by a couple of nearby residents. Ideally BTC would like to set up a Management Group for the area consisting of volunteers but as yet this has not happened – something may be in the pipeline but for now there are some very hands on volunteers. Another volunteer looks after a small area within the fenced area near the Scout Hut which she has planted up with bushes and flowers etc. She is in contact with BTC who are looking at planting more to hide the fence into the industrial/business park. BTC are looking at replacing the wooden fencing round this area with potentially new fencing or large rocks and gated access for BTC mower etc. There is possibly the potential of this being looked at as a good site for allotments.

**OTHER ITEMS RAISED BY THOSE PRESENT**

Query as to whether St Swithun’s Road would be resurfaced. Explained that this is on Dorset Council Highways list for potential resurfacing this year.

Double Yellow Line parking in Hospital Lane and North Allington – lots of this happening. Ward Clerk will inform Dorset Council Traffic Wardens

Food Waste Collections not being collected – this has been happening over the last 9-12 months in North Allington. Residents have had to contact Waste Management Team regarding frequent missed collections but nothing seems to have improved. Residents appear to be putting food waste in the public bins on/near Allington Hill in an effort to get rid of their waste. Ward Clerk will inform Waste Management Team

Himalayan Balsam – noticed that this is an issue along the Simene River – who should be managing this? Cllr Jones explained that is nearly impossible to eradicate this, but it can be managed and is dealt with by the Environment Agency. Cathy Harvey pointed out that it is good for pollinators as it flowers at a time when not much else is!

Cathy Harvey explained that she is compiling a Management Plan for the Allington Hill area that they look after and had put together some mini surveys to see why people use this space. She handed some out to those present.

Dark Lane, Pine View – resident has previously been trying to tend to this with secateurs, but it needs a proper strim and to be put on a regular maintenance programme. Previously this came under Symondsbury Parish Council and they would inform Dorset Council to deal. Ward Clerk will report to Dorset Council.

Ward Clerk spotted broken fingerpost/footpath signage outside Mead Lane on way to meeting – will report.

Bridport Central Ward item – brambles/creeper on bend outside Dominoes which makes it difficult for prams/mobility scooters etc to get through. Ward Clerk will inform BTC/DC to deal with as this is not an issue for this Ward.

1. **Date/Venue of next meeting – In October, further info to be advised**