

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held at the Town Hall on Monday 4 August 2025 at 6.30pm.

PRESENT    Cllr    Anne Rickard – (Chair and Town Mayor)

Cllr	Nigel Amor	Ann Langridge
	Ian Bark	Patrick Mooney
	Bridget Bolwell	Nigel Rawlings
	Dave Bolwell	Dave Rickard
	Jonathan Bourbon	Bev Thornton
	Sarah Carney	Sarah Williams
	Kelvin Clayton	

ALSO PRESENT    Sally Freemantle (Town Clerk), Terri Foxwell (Tourism, Markets and Events Manager), Caroline Pearce (Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer), Claire Peters-Way (Property Manager) and Sandy Goldsmith (Bradpole Ward Clerk)

There were no members of the public or press present.

**28.    APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Rob Casey, Andrew Holdridge, Anna Killick, Steve Williams and David Worthington.

**29.    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**30.    MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

**31.    STANDING ORDER 4(k)(vi)**

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

**32.    RE-ADOPTION OF THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

Following the last meeting of this Committee, it was agreed that the General Power of Competence should be reinstated.

RESOLVED: (1) 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; and (2) that Bridport Town Council's use of the General Power of Competence be reinstated.

### **33. WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDING SUPPORT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS**

The Committee considered a response from the Town Council, ENCL: 4027, to the announcement by the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG) that it will cease commissioning new neighbourhood planning support services. Following the discussion it was put to a vote, 12 councillors agreed and 1 abstained, and it was:

RESOLVED: that the letter included as appendix 1 in the report be sent to Edward Morello MP and the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government to continue with financial support for Neighbourhood Plans.

### **34. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor reported that the latest edition of the Mayor's Blog was now available.

The Leader of the Council explained that the Service Level Agreement reviews were being completed and suggested that it would be useful to have feedback from any Councillors who were involved with the groups affected.

Concern was raised regarding the closure of the Police Station, and it was clarified that the Police Station front desk would be closed but the time scale for this was not clear. Whilst the Police Station was only open to the public three mornings a week at present, it was felt that it is important to distinguish between community work and those requiring Police assistance. An opportunity to ask questions of the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner was required; he would therefore be invited to the next meeting of the Council.

The meeting closed at 6.43pm.

**The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 23 September 2025**