



## BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL

**Sally Freemantle**  
Town Clerk

To all Town Councillors

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14 January 2026

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the Town Council to be held at **Mountfield, Rax Lane, Bridport DT6 3JP** on **Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 6.30pm**, when it is proposed to transact the following business.

Yours sincerely

Town Clerk

The meeting is open to the public

### AGENDA

#### **OPEN PUBLIC FORUM**

Prior to the start of each ordinary Council meeting, there will be an open Public Forum of up to 45 minutes for electors or residents in the parish of Bridport or adjoining parishes. This will be in two parts:

- a public discussion on a particular issue of current interest. Items for discussion, which shall be introduced by a councillor, shall be agreed by a previous Council meeting. There will be no time limits on public contributions in this section of the Open Forum. The topic for discussion is the role of The Lantern Trust by Mike Graham, CEO.
- public questions or statements, primarily in respect of other items on the agenda of the Town Council meeting, but also in the interests of wider public discussion. Each question/contribution under this section will not exceed three minutes in duration.

**1. APOLOGIES**

To receive apologies for absence submitted by Members, and to consider any new or extended leave of absence arrangements.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive any declarations of interest from members.

**3. MINUTES**

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 25 November 2025 [\(copy enclosed\)](#).

**4. STANDING ORDER 4(k)(vi)**

Questions, if any, pursuant to Standing Order 4(k)(vi) – Receipt and consideration of any questions from councillors, provided such questions are notified to the Proper Officer, in writing, at least two clear days before the meeting.

**5. COMMITTEES**

To receive and consider the minutes of the following meetings:

<b>a. Planning</b>	<b>01 December 2025</b>	<a href="#"><u>(copy enclosed)</u></a>
<b>b. Planning</b>	<b>05 January 2026</b>	<a href="#"><u>(copy enclosed)</u></a>
<b>c. Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee</b>	<b>07 January 2026</b>	<a href="#"><u>(copy enclosed)</u></a>
<b>d. Finance and General Purposes</b>	<b>12 January 2026</b>	<a href="#"><u>(copy enclosed)</u></a>

**Including the following recommendations:**

**(Min No. 66)**

RECOMMEND:

**FEES AND CHARGES**

RESOLVED: (1) that the fees and charges for 2026/27 be agreed; and (2) that it be recommended to Full Town Council that the fees and charges for 2026/27 be approved.

**(Min No. 67)**

RECOMMEND:

**BUDGET & ESTIMATES 2026/27, [ENCL:4088](#).**

RESOLVED: (1) that the 2026/27 budget as presented by the Finance & Office Manager (RFO) be agreed; and (2) that it be recommended to Full Town Council that the budget of £1,951,600 for 2026/27 be approved.

**(Min No. 68)**

RECOMMEND:

**RESERVES, [ENCL: 4084](#)**

RESOLVED: that the following be agreed and recommended to Full Town Council for approval: (i) that of the £171,000 CCLA Investment proceeds: £121,000 to be allocated to General Reserves and £50,000 to be allocated to a new Town Plan Projects Earmarked Reserve (please note there are currently no

other funds earmarked for this purpose); and (ii) that within the 2026-27 budget, an additional £75,000 be allocated as a contribution to General Reserves.

**(Min No. 69)**

RECOMMEND:

**PRECEPT FOR 2026/27, [ENCL: 4085](#)**

RESOLVED: that the proposed Precept of £1,299,700 be agreed and recommended to Full Town Council for approval.

**(Min No. 70)**

RECOMMEND:

**RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT: ANNUAL REVIEW, [ENCL: 4086](#)**

RESOLVED: that the Corporate Risk Assessment be agreed and recommended to Full Town Council for approval.

**(Min No. 71)**

RECOMMEND:

**MEETINGS CALENDAR, [ENCL: 4089](#)**

RESOLVED: that the meetings calendar be agreed and recommended to Full Town Council for approval.

**(Min No. 72)**

RECOMMEND:

**BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL POLICIES**

RESOLVED: that the policies (1) Allotments, [ENCL: 4056](#) (2) Bridport Cemetery, [ENCL: 4057](#); and (3) Information Technology, [ENCL: 4058](#), be agreed and recommended to Full Town Council for approval.

## 6. REPORTS

To receive any reports from:

- Dorset Police
- Dorset Council members
- Bridport Town Council ward members

## 7. TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

To elect a new representative on Bridport Museum Trust in place of Cllr Bridget Bolwell.

## 8. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR, DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL 2026/2027

In accordance with Standing Order 4(l) all members have been invited to submit nominations for the posts of Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and Leader of the Council. The nominations received will be reported and the Council will be invited to approve its preferred candidates to go forward for election at the Annual Town Council meeting (Mayor Making).

## 9. UK TOWN OF CULTURE 2028 – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

To consider a report of the Town Clerk, [ENCL: 4092](#).

## 10. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

To agree issue for discussion at the next Open Forum.

## 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

To receive such announcements and communications as the Town Mayor, [ENCL: 4090](#), Leader of the Council, and the Town Clerk may wish to report.

**The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be on 24 March 2026**