

Minutes of the meeting of **BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL** held at Mountfield, Bridport on Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 6.30pm.

PRESENT Cllr Anne Rickard – (Chair and Town Mayor)

Cllrs	Nigel Amor	Ann Langridge
	Ian Bark	Patrick Mooney
	Dave Bolwell	Nigel Rawlings
	Jonathan Bourbon	Bev Thornton
	Kelvin Clayton	Dave Rickard
	Sarah Carney	David Worthington
	Rob Casey	Sarah Williams
	Julian Jones	Steve Williams
	Anna Killick	

PRESENT (ONLINE) Cllr Bridget Bolwell

ALSO PRESENT Sally Freemantle (Town Clerk), Lisa Pinch (Finance & Officer Manager), Claire Peters-Way (Property Manager), Sandy Goldsmith (Bradpole Ward Clerk), 1 member of the public and 1 member of the press.

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There were no comments from members of the public.

72. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bridget Bolwell (although in attendance virtually) and Andrew Holdridge.

6.35pm one member of the public arrived at the meeting (the member of the public indicated that he did not wish to speak).

73. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this time. It was noted that this does not preclude Councillors from declaring an interest at any other point in the meeting should the requirement arise.

(Cllrs Ian Bark and Kelvin Clayton later in the meeting declared personal interests in item 76(d) due to their allotment tenancies with Bridport Town Council.)

74. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

75. STANDING ORDER 4(k)(vi)

There were no questions pursuant to standing order 4(k)(vi). (Receipt and consideration of any questions from Councillors, provided such questions would have been notified to the Proper Officer, in writing, at least two clear days before the meeting.)

76. COMMITTEES

(a) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1 December 2025 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Ian Bark.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1 December 2025 be received and adopted.

(b) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5 January 2026 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Ian Bark.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5 January 2026 be received and adopted.

(c) ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 7 January 2026 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Dave Rickard.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee held on 7 January 2026 be received and adopted.

(d) FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 12 January 2026 were presented by the Committee Chairman, Councillor Paddy Mooney.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 12 January 2026 be received and adopted, and that the recommendations therein be approved, as set out below: -

(Min No. 66) FEES AND CHARGES

RESOLVED: that the fees and charges for 2026/27 be approved.

(Min No. 67) BUDGET & ESTIMATES 2026/27, ENCL:4088.

RESOLVED: that the 2026/27 budget be approved; and that the budget of £1,951,600 for 2026/27 be approved.

(Min No. 68) RESERVES, ENCL: 4084

RESOLVED: 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) PRECEPT FOR 2026/27, ENCL: 4085

RESOLVED: that the proposed Precept of £1,299,700 for 2026-27 be agreed.

Members thanked the Budget Working Group, Finance & Office Manager and Town Clerk for their hard work.

(Min No. 70) RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT: ANNUAL REVIEW, ENCL: 4086

RESOLVED: that the Corporate Risk Assessment be approved.

(Min No. 71) MEETINGS CALENDAR, ENCL: 4089.

RESOLVED: that the meetings calendar be approved.

(Min No. 72) BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL POLICIES

Cllrs Ian Bark and Kelvin Clayton declared personal interests in item 76(d) due to their allotment tenancies with Bridport Town Council.) (F&GP minute ref 72(1))

RESOLVED: that the policies (1) Allotments, ENCL: 4056 (2) Bridport Cemetery, ENCL: 4057; and (3) Information Technology, ENCL: 4058, be agreed and adopted.

77. REPORTS

No reports were received from Dorset Police or Dorset Council members.

The Chair thanked the Bridport Town Council Ward Clerks for their ongoing support and hard work. Dave Rickard gave a brief update on the ongoing pavement works along Holloway, Bothenhampton.

78. TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Town Clerk reported that this item was no longer required.

79. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR, DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL 2026/27

In accordance with Standing Order 4(l) all members were invited to submit nominations for the posts of Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and Leader of the Council.

Cllr Anne Rickard proposed, and Cllr Dave Rickard seconded Cllr Jonathan Bourbon as Mayor Elect for the municipal year 2026/27, and there being no other nominations it was then

RESOLVED: that Cllr Jonathan Bourbon be approved as Mayor Elect for the municipal year 2026/27, to be confirmed at the Annual Town Council meeting.

Following the proposal that Cllr Bridget Bolwell be nominated as Deputy Mayor Elect for the municipal year 2026/27, and there being no other nominations it was then

RESOLVED: that Cllr Bridget Bolwell be approved as Deputy Mayor Elect for the municipal year 2026/27, to be confirmed at the Annual Town Council meeting.

Following the proposal that Cllr Dave Bolwell be nominated as Leader Elect for the municipal year 2026/27, and there being no other nominations it was then

RESOLVED: that Cllr Dave Bolwell be approved as Leader Elect for the municipal year 2026/27, to be confirmed at the Annual Town Council meeting.

80. UK TOWN OF CULTURE 2028 – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 4092.

Members questioned how the Town Council could resource this given the amount of officer time and ongoing projects. It was noted that Bridport was previously Dorset's Town of Culture from July - December 2024. Members agreed that due to time constraints an officer resources that and an application could be submitted in the future. Further discussions to be held with organisations within the arts sector to gather their thoughts on a future application.

RESOLVED: that an application is not to be submitted for the UK Town of Culture 2028.

81. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Cllr Ann Langridge proposed that Tracey Bovington CEO of The Harmony Centre be invited to the next Open Public Forum at the next Full Council meeting to speak on the Access and Wellbeing service.

Cllr Nigel Amor proposed that Kate Wills CEO of Coastland College (Weymouth and Kingston Maurward College) be invited to speak at the next Open Public Forum.

Following a discussion it was

RESOLVED: (i) to invite Tracey Bovington CEO of The Harmony Centre to talk about the work and the services they provide at the Full Council meeting in March; (ii) to invite that Kate Wills CEO of Coastland College (Weymouth and Kingston Maurward College) to speak at the June Full Council meeting.

82. ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Mayor, ENCL: 4090.

The meeting closed at 7.33pm.

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