

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday 4 March 2026 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Dave Rickard (Chairman)

Jonathan Bourbon	Dave Rickard
Kelvin Clayton	Steve Williams
Julian Jones	
Anne Rickard	

ALSO PRESENT: Sally Freemantle (Town Clerk) and Caroline Pearce (Project Manager and Community Initiatives Officer).

PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public addressed the Committee with regard to the Together Alliance. He explained that a recent leaflet drop had indicated that there was local support for the message against hate and division and he appealed to the Town Council to join the alliance which had been growing in numbers since before Christmas. The website indicated that a number of organisations and personalities had already signed up to the alliance in support of the message of 'Hope over Fear'. It was reported that there is an organised march in London on 28th March and there were three full buses travelling from the area.

30. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bev Thornton and David Worthington.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

32. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 January 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

33. PROPOSAL FOR SUPPORT OF TOGETHER ALLIANCE MESSAGE OF 'HOPE OVER FEAR'

Discussion took place regarding the proposal and it was felt that the message aligns with the principles of the Rights Respecting Town Charter. It was felt that the matter could be considered at the next Full Council meeting on 24th March where the receipt of a motion could be considered.

RESOLVED: that the proposal to consider supporting the message of "Hope Over Fear" be referred to the next meeting of the Town Council.

One member of the public left the meeting at 6.27pm and did not return.

34. WB1 BUS SERVICE

Consideration was given to an update about the WB1 bus service, ENCL: 4103. The Project Manager summarised the report and explained that funding had been offered by Dorset Council to support a continuation of the service for a further three years. The funding would enable the existing Saturday and Sunday schedule to continue, with fare income being factored in. The funding would decrease in years two and three with a view that fare income would increase and business income would be generated. The service receives tremendous support from the community, and the Project Manager has been commended for her hard work and dedication which secured the success of the initiative. The Town Council is being asked to continue to be the accountable body for the service for the next three years.

6.29pm – Cllr Sarah Carney arrived at the meeting.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted;

RESOLVED: that the Project Manager be thanked for her hard work and dedication to the success of the initiative; and

RECOMMENDED: that the extension of the project and the requirement that the Town Council continues to be the accountable body for the service be considered by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

35. PROJECT UPDATES

Consideration was given to a report of the Project Manager, ENCL: 4104. The Project Manager summarised the report and explained that there was a need to prioritise the projects within the five-year plan. With regard to resilience work and community emergency planning, the Project Manager stated that it was important to keep the documents and procedures up to date to ensure that the outcome would be as successful as possible.

The Town Clerk reported an issue which had been raised by a Councillor with regard to aggressive dog behaviour and it was suggested that the matter be considered when rolling out the Asker Meadows Five Year Management Plan.

Issues regarding flooding at St Mary's fields (central footpath) and on the path running from Priory Lane up to Skilling, adjacent to the allotment association area, were reported and it was confirmed that the team were aware of the issues in these areas.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

36. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity of the remaining agenda items would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s3.

37. SUGGESTION FOR ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, 4105 and buildings of outstanding value to the community were discussed.

RECOMMENDED: registration of three Assets of Community Value as identified by the Committee be referred to Full Council for consideration.

The meeting closed at **7.18pm**.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 3 June 2026