

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday 4 September
2019 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Kelvin Clayton (Chairman)

Ian Bark	Anne Rickard
Sarah Carney	Dave Rickard
Karen Hunt	Steve Williams
Ros Kayes	

PUBLIC FORUM

Lin Scrannage addressed the committee on her concerns regarding possible adverse health effects of 5G wireless communications. She advised that despite there being published information on the issue, no formal safety study had been carried out prior to the commencement of the roll-out of 5G. Lin was concerned that she had not been able to engage the local MP, Dorset Council or Public Health England in the matter. She circulated supporting information and urged members to press for the precautionary principle to be adopted before 5G was introduced in the local area.

Members discussed the matter and noted the need to obtain further information.

The Chairman thanked Lin for her address.

15. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Barry Irvine. Cllr Ros Kayes had advised that she would be about 30 minutes late.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 June 2019 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Karen Hunt asked why the notes of the Open Spaces Task Force had not appeared on the agenda. The Clerk advised that this was an oversight and apologised.

18. CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Councillors considered a report on the work of the Task and Finish Group and draft action plan ENCL: 3345.

Cllr Ros Kayes joined the meeting at this point

The Town Clerk reported that the draft action plan had been tabled for information to the committee, and that a final draft would be recommended by the Climate Emergency Task and Finish Group in September, for consideration at the November meeting of the committee. Members were welcome to make comments and representations to members of the Task and Finish Group ahead of its next meeting.

Members discussed the following:

- The process for agreeing the plan, which would be consideration at the committee meeting on 6 November 2019, followed by consideration at Full Council on 19 November 2019.
- Circulation of the draft plan to other councils and stakeholders. This was acceptable provided it was made clear that the document was a draft only.
- Engagement of other groups including Transition Town Bridport.
- The Earth Protector Town pilot scheme.

RESOLVED: that the agenda for the meeting of the Environment & Social Wellbeing Committee on 6 November 2019 be restricted to consideration of the Climate Emergency Action Plan and other essential items only.

19. COMMUNITY BUS PROJECT

The Town Clerk reported on a review of the community bus scheme, which had included productive discussions with Dorset Community Transport and a local taxi firm as potential alternatives to the current arrangement with First Wessex. A hired minibus alternative was considered problematic as such vehicles would not be licensed for use as a bus service.

Members considered the update, and the possibility of running the service 'in house'. Reference was made to the initial feasibility study carried out for the initiative.

RECOMMENDED: that the options identified in the Community Bus Feasibility Study be incorporated into the review of the service.

20. RIGHTS RESPECTING UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council had agreed to be the lead body for the next phase of Rights Respecting work, aiming to embed the charter values more deeply in the community and in the Town Council's work. A £13,150 grant had been awarded by Global Dialog, and the next step would be to engage a consultant to help with the development of a plan and actions. The opportunity had been advertised with a closing date of 9 September. A steering group comprising four Town Council members, David Powell, and Edward Waller of Realising Rights was overseeing this work.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

21. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Chairman reported that a Year 10 student at Colfox School had set up an 'Eco Team' at the school. An email from the student was circulated to members.

RESOLVED: that the student be approached with a view to engaging him in the One Planet Living Working Group.

22. BRIDPORT COMMUNITY HUB

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3446.

The Clerk requested that members consider two issues arising from the report; whether the Council wished to engage in the initiative, and if so, whether a representative should be nominated to attend a proposed meeting in September 2019.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that Cllr Ros Kayes would explore the initiative further with Rev Pete Stone of Bridport Team Ministry.

23. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Kayes reported that Bridport Youth & Community Centre Trust had funds to create a community kitchen aimed at both younger and older people. A further contribution might be available from the Chancery House Trust. The Centre would be celebrating its 50th anniversary in October and councillors would be invited. Members considered the possibility of holding a committee meeting at the Centre.

Cllr Dave Rickard reported that he had attended a meeting of the West Bay Forum. Issues discussed included public WiFi and the 'Welcome Hub'.

24. ISSUES FOR FUTURE REPORTS

RESOLVED: That the following be brought forward for consideration at future meetings of the committee:

- Bridport Youth & Community Centre
- Social prescribing
- Health and privacy implications of 5G wireless communications

25. UPDATES ON OTHER ONGOING ISSUES/CORRESPONDENCE

The installation of recycling bins at Plottingham was considered. This would be passed to the Town Surveyor and Dorset Waste Partnership to address.

Consideration was given to information of sea water quality testing from the Environmental Health team at Dorset Council, ENCL: 3447.

RESOLVED: that Dorset Council be asked what regime and frequency of sampling was in use, whether West Bay was a designated bathing beach according to EU standards, and if so what impact Brexit might have.

Recommendations from the Open Spaces Task Force meeting of 2 July 2019 would be considered by the Chairman under delegation.

Cllr Sarah Carney asked whether an update was available on the agreed traffic surveys. The Town Clerk advised that he would investigate and report back.

The meeting closed at **8.52pm**.

The next meeting of this committee will be held on 6 November 2019