



BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



I am very pleased to present Bridport Town Council's annual report for 2023-24. The report provides a summary of the projects delivered by the Town Council over the past year, followed by more detailed information on its operational services, organisation and accounts.

Councillor Dave Bolwell, Town Mayor and Chairman 2023-24

2023-24—A Year of Change

The municipal year, which runs from May, saw major changes for the town and the council. In April 2024 the council's area almost doubled in size as a result of boundary changes, which required significant preparatory work. We also put a lot of effort into recruiting candidates for the elections in May 2024, knowing that a significant number of sitting councillors would not stand for re-election.

These priorities did not stop us from delivering a number of key projects (see below), along with supporting or staging a full calendar of events including those for the Coronation. We also continued to deliver our wide portfolio of local services.

During the year, we declared Bridport pesticide-free, bee friendly, a swift town, a sustainable palm oil town, and became Dorset's first Town of Culture.



Two of our outdoor councillor recruitment events—both featuring residents who went on to be elected!

Town Council Projects 2023-24

Some of the projects undertaken this year include:

Changing Places Toilets Between April 2023 and February 2024 we designed, built, and opened two Changing Places toilet facilities, one at Bridport Bus Station, the other at West Bay Road Car Park. These are larger toilet facilities that have the right equipment, including a changing bench and a hoist, designed to support disabled people who need assistance.

Coneygar Hill Gateway Over the second half of the year we completely restored the entrance to Coneygar Hill, on behalf of the Bridport Millennium Green Trust which owns the land. The works included reinstatement of the dry stone walling and gateway, newly laid paths, improved drainage, and landscaping.

Court Orchard Green Through the early part of the year we engaged with local residents to develop proposals for improvements at the green, including a new play area and a planting scheme. The residents themselves have formed a community group to make sure they retain an input into the project, and the subsequent management of the area.

Energy Advice Building on our development of a volunteer 'Energy Champions' scheme, we ran energy advice sessions to assist residents in reducing both their energy costs and their carbon footprints.

Food Security Plan In January 2024 we published a plan to address the challenge of rising food insecurity in the area. The plan, which we will work with local stakeholders to deliver, researched the best way to ensure that there is always a secure, affordable, and healthy food supply for the current and future populations, as well as tourists, in the Bridport local area.

Town Centre Health Check We carried out the third biennial analysis of the local economy, and in January 2024 published the final report, showing some cause for concern, and supporting our call for action on our Bridport Investment Plan

Heritage Trails and Podcasts In March 2024 we introduced three new heritage walking trails to help residents and visitors explore the town's history (the Saxon Loop), the rivers that brought trade to the town (the Rivers Loop), and the valuable green spaces that define the town (the Green Route).

Solar Car Ports These solar arrays, making use of 'dead' space over Plottingham Car Park, were made fully operational in July 2023, generating power for the grid, and including EV charging, a new payment machine, and a water refill station.

Town Council Services 2023-24

Allotments: The Town Council has 205 allotment plots and at the current time there are 125 people in the parish on the waiting list. The Town Council works closely with the Bridport and District Allotments Society on all aspects of the management of the allotments.

Asker Meadows: The open space and adjoining the New Zealand site are overseen by a well-supported community group. In the last year the showground has been widely used, hosting the Food and Beer Festivals, the Circus, and Action Challenge. The meadows continue to be a location for tree planting and other biodiversity initiatives, part of the local response to the climate and ecological emergency.

Beach Wheelchair Scheme This scheme provides access to West Beach using dedicated beach matting, and three specialised wheelchairs that extend this access to other areas of the beach, and into the sea.

Borough Gardens: The Borough Gardens community group, supported by the Town Council, has met regularly on site, making continued improvements to the Gardens.

Bridport Football Club: The Town Council has the freehold ownership of this land and the Football Club has recently entered into a new 99-year lease. The proceeds from parking charges are split equally between the Football Club and Town Council, and there are plans in place to replace the existing surface with permanent hard standing. The multi use games arena on the site is free to use during the day and continues to be very popular.

Bridport Local Area Partnership (BLAP): The Town Council continues to support BLAP and continues to meet the funding shortfall arising from the loss of a £6,000 Dorset Council grant. In the past year, BLAP has continued to work on projects, looking at homelessness and health & wellbeing. It has also worked with parish and town councils, considering issues of common interest, and future town and parish council engagement with Dorset Council.

Car Parking: The Town Council owns the public car parks at Plottingham and Bridport Football Club. The management of pay and display parking is undertaken by Dorset Council on our behalf. We also provide a limited number of parking permits at The Grove in Rax Lane. We have installed 'solar car ports' at Plottingham, to generate electricity for the local grid and for electric vehicle charging. We also operate a limited permit parking scheme covering The Grove, and Borough Gardens.

Cemetery: The Town Council manages Bridport Cemetery, which is such an important and highly regarded asset for the town.

Climate Emergency: The Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and published an action plan in the same year. Actions from the original plan have been delivered, including the Energy Champions initiative that aims to address fuel poverty and reduce the carbon footprint of local residents, solar car ports, and replacement windows at Mountfield. An updated action plan was published in 2023.

Civic and Ceremonial: The Town Council elects and supports the Town Mayor, who carries out civic roles on behalf of the town. In the last year the Mayor attended 115 engagements, raised funds for Bridport Youth & Community Centre and the Bank of Dreams & Nightmares, alongside his tireless efforts organising community litter picks throughout the year. The Mayor also publishes a regular 'blog'.

Communication: The Town Council issues an annual report on its work, along with a supporting video presentation and newsletters for events. The Town Council hosts its own web site and a community web site, and the TIC has a wide social media presence. We also maintain a Town Council-specific Facebook page with over 1,800 followers. The Council, through the TIC, is able to take online bookings for events on its community web site. A weekly Town Council bulletin is issued to all town councillors. All of our formal council meetings are open to the public, and town councillors and the Town Clerk regularly attend meetings of other organisations and groups to provide updates on our work. In 2023 we introduced new 'meet the council' outdoor events around the town, giving people an opportunity to chat informally with councillors and officers. From 1 April 2024, we are developing other new ways of engaging with the public, including at a very local level across our five ward areas.

Community Transport: The Town Council's round-Bridport bus replaces one cut by the former Dorset County Council, and provides access to the town centre for residents of Bridport and three of the surrounding parishes. The service is currently operated on our behalf by Dorset Community Transport.

Consultation: The Town Council responds to important public consultations affecting Bridport, such as those issued by central government or Dorset Council. We also consult on all of our own major strategies, policies, and plans.

Town Council Services 2023-2024

Democracy - Working with Young People: The Town Council continues to support the Bridport Youth and Community Centre, and engages local schools in the Rights Respecting project, led by the Town Council. In 2023/24, the Mayor adopted the Youth & Community Centre as one of his chosen charities for fundraising, and we focused our work to develop skills and employment, on the needs of young people.

Events: Bridport's wonderful calendar of community events was restored to full health in 2022/23 following the lifting of pandemic restrictions. The Town Council provides essential logistical and other support to the Food Festival, Beer Festival, Jurassic Fields, Folk Festival, Carnival, Torchlight Procession, Hat Festival and Christmas Cheer, and delivered events in support of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the proclamation of the death of the Queen.

We also provide the Community Charter Fair, street music in Bucky Doo Square, and the Remembrance Sunday Parade in November, and we support a host of smaller events throughout the year. The Town Council provides flags and bunting for the town centre in summer, puts up Christmas lights and erects promotional banners on town centre lamp posts and elsewhere.

Environment and Social Wellbeing Committee: This committee's main business this year has again been the delivery of its Climate Emergency Action Plan, finalising our solar car ports, installing further replacement windows at Mountfield, and maintaining the Energy Champions scheme. It has also provided continued support for tree planting and other biodiversity enhancements, and has maintained the Bridport Sculpture Trail. The committee has been at the forefront of the Council's work on beach matting, beach wheelchairs, and the cost-of-living crisis. New initiatives in 2023-24 include our heritage trails and associated podcasts, and river monitoring.

External Funding: During 2023-24, the Town Council secured external funding for a range of projects including our Food Security Plan, water refill stations, the George Biles exhibition, and the Town of Culture initiative.

Finances: The Best Value and Scrutiny Sub-Committee received reports during the year on all aspects of the financial management of the Town Council, including reports from the Council's Internal Auditor. Town councillors received regular budget monitoring reports and the Town Council's Budget Working Group looked in detail at the budget. The Town Council agreed its budget for

2023-24, taking into account a number of factors including the incorporation of the work of three adjoining parish councils that now form part of our area, and proposed projects. The Council's Internal Auditors make three visits during the year and it was pleasing that there were no issues reported, either as part of the internal or external audits. The Auditors also work with the Council to update an annual Corporate Risk Assessment, which is reported to members. The Town Council has also agreed a capital budget to support the delivery of projects in the next 3 years, and a medium term financial plan.

Foundry Lea Working Group: This working group brings together local councils and other stakeholders, with the developers of Foundry Lea, with the aim of achieving the best possible development for the area. In 2023-24 we continued in-depth discussions about next steps following the granting of detailed planning permission for the housing element of the development, including the Miles Cross junction. We also liaised with the developers on issues of local concern such as tree felling and flooding.

Governance: The Town Council has a series of policies that regulate its proceedings, including a Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations, Standing Orders etc. It also has a number of other key documents that it reviews each year, including its Asset Register, Risk Management Policy, Health and Safety Policy and Investment Strategy. In 2023-24, the Council delivered the transition plan drawn up ahead of major changes to its boundary from April 2024.

Grants: The Town Council agreed to continue funding (supported by a service level agreement) for the Leisure Centre, Citizens' Advice, Bridport Area Development Trust (for the LSi and West Bay Discovery Centre), Bridport Museum, Bridport Arts Centre, 2020 Skate & Ride, and Bridport Youth and Community Centre. We also agreed new funding support for the Lyric Theatre, and provided one-off funding for community groups to support the delivery of projects – through our community and car boot sale grant schemes. In total, the Town Council awarded over £63,000 in grant funding in 2023-24.

Highways and Transportation: The Planning Committee, considers local public highway and transport matters, with support from appropriate stakeholders such as the Western Area Transport Action Group. In 2023-24 we successfully applied to make the town centre a 20mph zone.

Town Council Services 2023-2024

Highway Verge Maintenance: The Town Council continued to maintain the highway verges, as part of a Service Level Agreement with Dorset Council. The Town Council receives a grant from Dorset Council to assist with the work, and has adapted the cutting regime to promote biodiversity. In April 2024 we added new responsibilities arising from the expansion of the council boundary.

Homes for Ukraine In 2022, the Town Council established itself as the local contact point for advice and help to hosts and their guests arriving under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Throughout 2023-24 we have continued to support dedicated events for our guests, and have included them in our own activities, including young Ukrainians participating in maypole dancing at the Community Charter Fair. We also funded a support worker through the year to assist with interpretation and advice/guidance.

Lengthsman: The post of Lengthsman was in 2023-24 funded by the Town Council and the parish councils participating in the scheme - Bothenhampton & Walditch, Symondsburry, Litton Cheney and Bradpole. This changed in April 2024 with the changes to our boundary, which saw the abolition of Bothenhampton & Walditch and Bradpole Parish Councils, but we continue to work with the other participants. The Lengthsman's work includes gully clearing, repairing notice boards, removing fly posting, grass cutting, weeding, repairing benches, and similar tasks. We also undertake some additional 'one-off' work for other organisations through the scheme.

Markets: The Town Council manages the street market, a major tourist draw and an important local facility. In 2023-24 we saw a continuation of good attendance by stallholders, and other speciality markets have continued in West Bay and elsewhere.

Market & Business Liaison Working Group: This working group includes representatives from the Bridport & District Tourism Association, Bridport Business Chamber, other business organisations, market traders and the Bridport Local Area Partnership. The working group considers reports on the tourism, markets, and town events, and co-ordinates town publicity and promotion.

Mountfield/Millennium Green: The Town Council continues to work with the Millennium Green Trust on the delivery of its management plan for the area, and general grounds maintenance. In 2023-24 this included completion of restoration work on the original 'gateway' at the foot of Coneygar Hill. The gardens at Mountfield continue to be popular as a venue for community events during the year, including the Community Charter Fair, theatrical productions, and even a circus. Inside our Mountfield offices that sit within the Green, we continued our window replacement programme this year.

Neighbourhood Plan: The Town Council worked with Allington, Bothenhampton & Walditch, Bradpole and Symondsburry Parish Councils to develop the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan. The delivery of the Plan is overseen by a Joint Committee of participating councils, supported by the Project Manager. The Plan forms part of the statutory planning framework.

Priory Lane - Community Orchard: We provide support to the Bridport Community Orchard Group which manages the Orchard site and hosts a number of popular events during the year, including the Apple Day and Wassailing events. The Orchard Group also manages the land at the top of Park Road. The sites are managed in partnership with the Council.

Partnership Working: The Town Council continues to work with a large number of partners, including local community groups, Bridport Local Area Partnership, the Police, Bridport Business Chamber and other business groups, Bridport Area Community Housing, Bridport Food Matters, Tourism Association, Dorset Council, Magna Housing, the Western Area Transport Advisory Group, and other local councils. During 2023-24 we continued to work closely with the business community on the Bridport Investment Plan and associated projects. The Town Council appoints representatives to over 30 local and regional bodies, and officers also attend networking meetings, including the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC), Society of Local Council Clerks etc.

Planning: The Town Council is a consultee for planning applications. Over the past year, 143 applications were reported to its Planning Committee and comments passed to Dorset Council. The committee also responds to relevant planning policy consultations on behalf of the council, and lobbies for change. From April 2024, the committee's work expanded to incorporate applications from the newly extended parish boundary. Committee members may also speak at meetings of Dorset Council's Planning Committee, when significant Bridport items are considered.

Play Areas: The Town Council maintains a number of play areas, including the award-winning and fully accessible West Bay Play Area. The Town Council has a programme of improvements that saw new equipment installed at North Mills in 2023-24, and we worked with local residents to develop plans for new play equipment and other improvements at Court Orchard Green. We also continued to develop a project to replace the outdoor skate park and upgrade play facilities at Plottingham Fields.

Riverside Gardens: The Town Council owns and maintains the Gardens in accordance with a management plan developed in consultation with the community. The gardens are home to a prestigious collection of sculptures to the gardens, gifted to the town by artist Greta Berlin, and a tree

Town Council Services 2023-2024

Tourist Information Centre: The Town Council runs Bridport TIC, having taken it over from the then District Council in 2017. As well as providing a huge range of information and services to visitors and residents, the TIC provides Box Office services to local organisations, and manages the Town Hall, Bucky Doo Square, the Bridport and West Bay web site, the Mayor's Secretarial function, and the production of the Town Guide. The TIC is very popular and visitor numbers remain very high.

Town Centre Working Group: The Town Council operates a stakeholder working group to consider the future of the town centre, with a focus on vehicular and pedestrian access/circulation, and the public realm. The group has been a key driver in developing options for the future of the town centre through the Council's Access & Movement Study.

Town Council Five-Year Plan: The plan provides a framework for the development of the Town Council's policies, schemes and budgets. The last plan ran from 2019 to 2024, and is currently being refreshed for the next five-year period.

Town Hall: The Town Hall is usually open to the public six days a week and bookings are taken through the Tourist Information Centre. Bookings remained strong in 2023-24.

Weather: The Town Council is part of the county Emergency Planning arrangements, playing its part in responding to severe weather events such as flooding or snowfall. In addition, the Town Council provides and fills a number of grit bins around the town. In 2023-24 our team of Flood Wardens, along with the Council's grounds team, were the first line of the community response to flooding.

West Bay: The Salt House is owned by the Town Council and made available for public use. The neighbouring Water Sports Centre is used by the Canoe Club and the Gig Club. The Council continues to support the West Bay Forum and we also work closely with the Harbour Master. We provide free public WiFi across the centre of West Bay, and manage the cycle/foot path on the Old Railway Line, West Bay Play Area, and Harbour Green including the 'welcome hub' seating area.

West Bay Car Boot Sale: The Council runs the weekly car boot sale on Sundays from Easter to October. Income from pitch fees is distributed in the form of grants to community groups. In 2023-24 the total grant funding was £6,750.

Youth and Community Centre: The Town Council continues to provide funding for the running costs of the Centre and also to support the provision of a Youth Club. The Centre continues to be very well used, and now hosts five different youth clubs.



Melplash Show



Greta Berlin Sculpture



Bridport Investment Plan



Solar Car Ports

Will Austin
Town Clerk

Report of the Town Mayor

My year as Mayor has been an absolute pleasure and I have attended/opened/taken part in so many events in Bridport and across Dorset.

They have ranged from planting a tree where I had to dig my own hole, opening shops, the Carnival, the Torchlight Parade, being on the stage at the BridLit Festival and all of the many Town events that Bridport celebrate every year.

It was very nerve-wracking to stage my first Bridport Civic day where the spotlight was on our Town, what we offer and how well we could showcase some of the things that make Bridport special but it was also a shining example of how well our Bridport team can organise and deliver a complex day of herding Mayors and dignitaries from across Dorset and yet make it seem so effortless. I am extremely proud to say that our Civic day has stood out as one of the best that has been staged and Bridget and I have had so many compliments from other Mayors, yet again Bridport has excelled



I have supported our Community events, our Charities and organisations that exist to improve the lives of our residents and I have seen first-hand the work that goes on behind the scenes by all of those involved who just want to help those in need without thought of reward.

Everything I have done representing the people of Bridport has been special to me but the one event that really affected me with its importance, tradition and ceremony was the Remembrance Parade. I felt very proud to see so many people come together to remember those who gave their lives for their Country and to have the privilege of leading that parade was an experience I will never forget.

Finally I would like to thank those that have been instrumental in making my year so enjoyable, our Town Cryer whom you might have heard of, our Councillors for their hard work on behalf of the people of Bridport and allowing me to be Mayor of this wonderful town but any success is really down the hard working Team at of Bridport Town Council who organise everything and point me in the right direction. They have given me the confidence to carry out my duties knowing everything has been planned down to the last detail and so I would like single out Will Austin, our Town Clerk, and thank him for his support and guidance throughout the year, Jill Beed who has had the challenging task of making sure I was at the right place, at the right time and organising all of my Mayoral duties and finally Bridget who has stood by my side at many events, edited all of my speeches and supported me throughout a very busy but very special year.

Cllr Dave Bolwell, Mayor of Bridport 2023-24

Report of the Leader of the Council

This year has been busy as usual, enhanced by the extra work for staff and councillors to prepare for the boundary changes, enlarging the Town Council area to include the con-urbane parishes of Allington, Bothenhampton & Walditch & Bradpole. We had local elections May with five new wards will have 20 councillors between them. This too has involved increased activity all round by the Town Clerk and the Councillors, to encourage residents across the whole area to step up to be Town Councillors. To that end, last September we held outdoor meetings in all the new wards meeting local residents & explaining what the new Council would look like and encouraging them to get on board and consider standing for council. These were generally successful and allayed many fears of some of the residents from the parishes who had hitherto been very sceptical. We followed that up in February and March with meetings in the Town Hall and Mountfield for prospective new councillors to ask detailed questions.



Some highlights of our year included:

- ◇ Last May the Charter Fair and Community Fair was a big success, highlighting all that is good and going on in Bridport.
- ◇ This particular Council over the past 5 years has built on the legacy of over 10 years of environmental good governance with an ongoing journey to green up all our activities and this year saw some new initiatives:-
- ◇ In June our verge management works started in biodiversity mode to protect wildflower growth especially rare Pyramidal and Bee Orchids. Additionally, Plottingham solar car ports became fully operational.
- ◇ In September we updated our Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- ◇ In January 2024 we worked with partners to develop a monitoring plan for the Brit Basin and its water quality.
- ◇ In February, our plans for a 20mph zone were approved, and we supported tree planting in Court Orchard.
- ◇ In March 2024, the town Council approved extending the West Bay beach matting and supporting water-accessible chairs. We also opened Changing Places units at West Bay and the Bus Station.
- ◇ Also in March we declared Bridport a pesticide-free town, a bee-friendly town, and a swift town, and launched four town trails based on Heritage and Environment.

Cllr Dave Rickard, Leader of the Council 2023-24



The Mayor's Civic Day



The Town Hall clock, decorated for the Coronation



Making sandbags to protect residents from flooding



Court Orchard tree planting



Changing Places toilet launch

Bridport Town Council

The Town Council, as a democratically elected body, works in partnership with other agencies and community bodies to represent and promote the town, ensure the delivery of high quality services in response to local needs and improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of its area.

The Town Council offices are located at:

Mountfield, Rax Lane, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3JP.
 Tel. no. 01308 456722
 Email address: enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk
 Website: www.bridport-tc.gov.uk

The Mounfield offices are open:

Mon-Thurs, 9.00am to 5.00pm
 Friday, 9.00am to 4.30pm

The Tourist Information Centre is open:

Monday to Saturday,
 April to Oct, 9am - 5pm
 Nov to Mar, 10am - 3pm

Staff:

- Town Clerk:** Will Austin
- Town Surveyor:** Daryl Chambers
- Finance & Office Manager:** Paul Fuszard
- Project Managers:** David Dixon and Caroline Pearce
- Ward Clerks:** Sandy Goldsmith, Jo Hughes, and Amy Stephenson
- Clerical Officer:** Claire Peters-Way
- Clerical Assistant:** Steven Yarde
- TIC Manager:** Terri Foxwell
- TIC Assistant Manager:** Rebecca Jones
- TIC Assistants:** Jill Beed, Charlotte Hicks, Grace Mynard, and Billy Shearer
- Grounds Supervisor:** Sean Coombs
- Grounds team:** George Foster-Grellis, Tom Hillier, Tim Smith, and Paul Sanderson
- Market Superintendent:** Ken Hussey
- Cemetery Superintendent:** Paul Violet
- Lengthsman:** Ed Wootton
- Town Hall Caretaker:** Darryl Hills
- Mounfield Cleaner:** Clare Violet
- East St Car Park Toilets Cleaner:** Lisa Craig

Bridport Town Councillors



Nigel Amor
n.amor@bridport-tc.gov.uk
Bradpole Ward



Kelvin Clayton
k.clayton@bridport-tc.gov.uk
Bridport Central Ward



Anne Rickard
a.rickard@bridport-tc.gov.uk
Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward



Ian Bark
i.bark@bridport-tc.gov.uk
Bradpole Ward



Andrew Holdridge
a.holdridge@bridport-tc.gov.uk
Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward



Dave Rickard
d.rickard@bridport-tc.gov.uk
Bridport Central Ward



Bridget Bolwell
b.bolwell@bridport-tc.gov.uk
Bothenhampton & Walditch Ward



Julian Jones
j.jones@bridport-tc.gov.uk
West Bridport & Allington Ward



Bev Thornton
b.thornton@bridport-tc.gov.uk
West Bridport & Allington Ward



Dave Bolwell
d.bolwell@bridport-tc.gov.uk
West Bay Ward



Anna Killick
a.killick@bridport-tc.gov.uk
Bradpole Ward



Sarah Williams
sj.williams@bridport-tc.gov.uk
Bridport Central Ward



Jonathan Bourbon
j.bourbon@bridport-tc.gov.uk
West Bridport & Allington Ward



Ann Langridge
a.langridge@bridport-tc.gov.uk
West Bay Ward



Steve Williams
sc.williams@bridport-tc.gov.uk
West Bridport & Allington Ward



Sarah Carney
s.carney@bridport-tc.gov.uk
West Bridport & Allington Ward



Paddy Mooney
p.mooney@bridport-tc.gov.uk
Bradpole Ward



David Worthington
d.worthington@bridport-tc.gov.uk
Bridport Central Ward



Rob Casey
r.casey@bridport-tc.gov.uk
Bradpole Ward



Nigel Rawlings
n.rawlings@bridport-tc.gov.uk
Bridport Central Ward

How the Council Works

The Council comprises 20 councillors - split across five wards.

All Councillors meet as the full Council to take the major decisions and oversee all activities of the Town Council. The Council appoints three main committees - Planning, Finance & General Purposes and Environment & Social Wellbeing. These are supported by a number of sub-committees, ward meetings, and working groups. Councillors are also appointed to serve on local outside organisations.

The full Town Council meets six times a year at 7.00 pm on a Tuesday. The Planning Committee meets monthly on Mondays. The Finance and General Purposes and Environment and Social Wellbeing committees meet four or five times a year. The Council's Best Value and Scrutiny Sub Committee meets quarterly. Agendas are normally issued a week before the meetings and are posted on public notice boards and on the Council's website.

The press and public are welcome to attend all ward, committee, sub-committee and full Council meetings and the public may put questions or make statements on any matter on the agenda, in public forums at the beginning of all of these meetings. The minutes are published on our website and can also be viewed at the library or at our Mountfield office. The calendar of meetings for the year is on the Town Council's website (www.bridport-tc.gov.uk) and on noticeboards. Please contact the Town Council for any additional information regarding Council meetings.

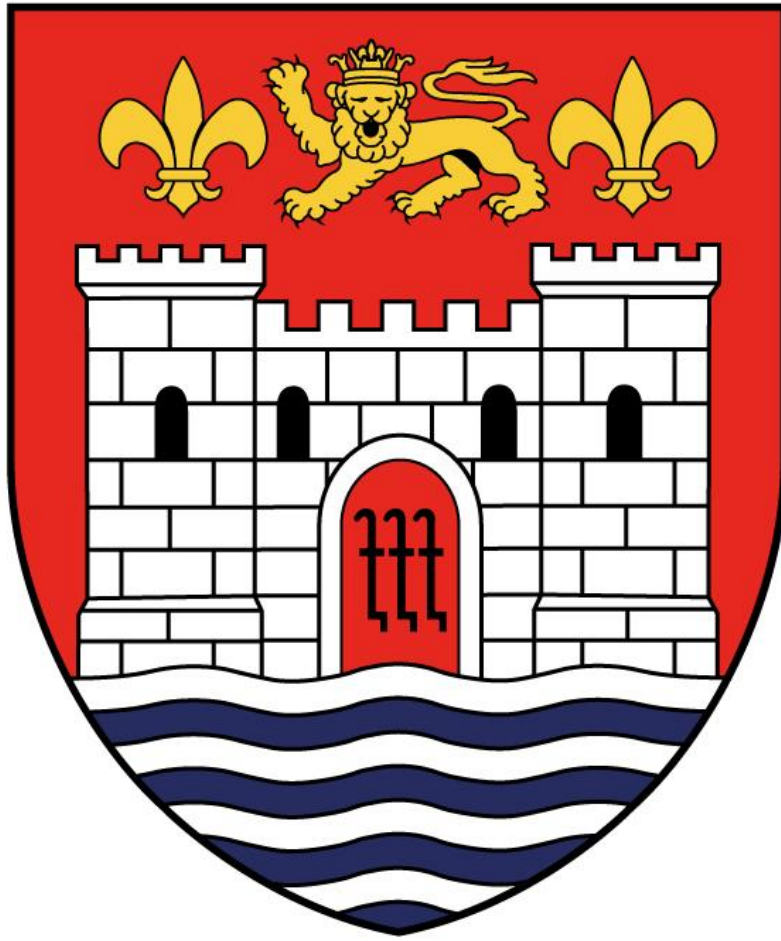
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

CURRENT ASSETS	£	£
Payments in advance		11,790
Debtors		84,342
Stock		8,392
Money Market Deposits		16,670
Cash at Bank		552,210
TOTAL ASSETS		673,404
CURRENT LIABILITIES	£	£
Creditors		101,987
NET ASSETS		571,417
REPRESENTED BY:		
General reserve as at 1 April 2023	216,953	
Transfer from Tourist Information reserve	0	
Funds introduced - Allington PC	3,359	
Funds introduced - Bradpole PC	33,963	
Net surplus for the year	35,612	
General reserve as at 31 March 2024		289,887
Climate emergency reserve as at 1 April 2023	0	
Grant funding	0	
Payments during the year	0	
Climate emergency reserve as at 31 March 2024		0
Earmarked reserve as at 1 April 2023	296,014	
Contribution to reserves	34,195	
Earmarked funds released	-53,914	
Earmarked reserve as at 31 March 2024		276,295
Tourist Information reserve as at 1 April 2023	0	
Transfer to general reserves	0	
Tourist Information reserve as at 31 March 2024		0
Capital reserve as at 1 April 2023	0	
Receipts during the year	6,000	
Payments during the year	-765	
Capital reserve as at 31 March 2024		5,235
TOTAL RESERVES		571,417

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

INCOME	£	£
Precept		844,484
Interest and investments		27,863
Allotments		7,001
Cemetery		29,081
Sitting Out Licences		2,450
Market		91,174
Amenity Areas and Playing Fields		57,782
Mountfield		60,008
The Grove		39,123
W.I. Hall		18,392
Salt House		24,052
Town Hall		21,557
Tourist Information Centre		235,780
Parish Clustering		12,410
Events		5,338
CCTV		0
Town Plan Projects		210,784
West Bay Car Boot		6,376
Salary Contributions		1,389
Community Infrastructure Levy		1,223
		1,696,267
EXPENDITURE	£	£
Administration	377,843	
Office Expenses	17,878	
Mountfield	43,604	
The Grove	23,165	
W.I. Hall	17,545	
Salt House	6,104	
Town Hall	16,235	
Tourist Information Centre	418,598	
Cemetery	22,712	
Civic	6,616	
Members' Allowances	12,727	
Market	11,753	
Amenity Areas and Playing Fields	377,606	
Grants and Donations	63,376	
Community Bus	15,000	
CCTV	224	
Town Plan Projects	188,026	
Other Services	41,643	
		1,660,655
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		35,612
Income as above		1,696,267
Climate Change grant funding		0
Funds introduced		37,322
Capital receipt		6,000
Total income, boxes 2 and 3 - Annual Return		1,739,589
Expenditure as above		1,660,655
Contribution to earmarked reserves		-34,195
Earmarked reserves paid during the year		53,914
Climate / Capital reserve paid during the year		765
Total expenditure, boxes 4 and 6 - Annual Return		1,681,139

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of Bridport Town Council as at 31 March 2024 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.



Bridport Town Council