**BRIDPORT WEST AND ALLINGTON WARD MATTERS**

**NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 July 2024**

**Present:** Cllr Sarah Carney, Cllr Jonathan Bourbon, Cllr Julian Jones, Cllr Thornton, 12 x members of the public. Ward Clerk Amy Stephenson made notes

**Apologies:** Cllr Steve Williams

1. **Introduction**

Cllr Bourbon gave a background and overview on why we were here and introduced each Councillor and the Ward Clerk. Cllr Carney gave further insight and information regarding how the Ward Groups had evolved since the Community Governance Review. She went on to further explain how the public could be involved and how it would be an opportunity to have more input/feedback from residents on what would be a two way engagement process of sharing ideas/concerns and information. Although this was the first public Ward Meeting of the new Ward Group, it is up to the public and Cllrs between them to help shape how they would like to see these meetings progress/evolve going forward.

1. **Court Orchard Community Park – an overview from Fran**

Cllr Bourbon introduced Fran to all those present and invited her to talk about the Court Orchard Community Park. Fran explained to all where the park is located and the poor condition of the equipment that was in there previously and how it had been used/not used. After email exchanges with the Town Council, Fran and other residents suggested ways on how they would like to change this park for the benefit of all and to enable full and safe usage. The Town Council worked with them in an informal group to discuss what they would like. This progressed to new equipment being installed, refurbishment of some items, trees being planted etc. Officially opening this Saturday 3 til 5.

1. **Ward Issues / Topics / Information**

20mph Zone – Cllr Carney explained how this had been achieved. It was requested that if there were any other areas that would benefit from this speed reduction then to let the Council know as it would be looked at in future plans as it was not a straight forward process. Residents felt that other areas that this needed to be extending to were North Allington, Hospital Lane and West Allington.

Hospital Lane to Allington Mead was never resurfaced when they resurfaced North Allington (which was from Hospital Lane down to the town). They only undertook a surface dressing.

Drains all up through North Allington are still an issue and all need looking at as all are blocked and/or have weeds growing out of them.

Cllr Carney explained to all that the Town Council are discussing and looking at their 5yr Plan. She explained how this works and how the Town Council need to know the publics views on this. A copy of the Draft Plan is available to view on the Town Council website. Cllr Carney and others will be at various events over the next view months in

order to gain peoples views on this e.g. Cllr Carney will be at Bridport Youth Club to talk to parents on Friday night.

The Town Council have been successful in securing a £100k grant from Dorset Council to resurface the Football Club car park. The money will go towards this as the cost will be higher due to the works not being a straightforward resurface as there are underground works to do also e.g drainage etc.

Cllr Carney explained how Bridport is the first ‘Town of Culture’. Please look out for more info/events on the website etc.

Cllr Carney explained how Bridport Children’s Centre has become a ‘family services hub’. Hopefully a member of staff will be present at our next meeting in order to explain what this is and what it will mean for the town and residents, as well as how it will work.

Vearse Farm/Foundry Lea update. Cllrs gave an update with regards to this. Work has already started on the access roads within as well as infrastructure works. Miles Cross roundabout work should be happening by October although this timeframe may well change. This would be achieved with two way traffic lights.

There will be further works in West Allington as per previous works lower down in the road that have been completed. The next phase will be from approximately Rendalls Walk up to Magdalen Lane.

Residents raised issue of St Swithins Road which needs resurfacing works.

Residents raised the need for a defibrillator near/in Court Orchard Community Park as the nearest one is approximately on North Mills Trading Estate. There is a lack of these around the parish. The air ambulance land near/in the park quite often.

Queries from residents raised with regards to Town Council money/income now that the parish councils have been dissolved and the assets are within the Town Council remit. Ward Clerk Amy explained that all monies left in the bank accounts of the Parish Councils were transferred over to the Town Council. The Town Council will budget for these newly acquired areas when requesting the annual precept. However, although this could mean more money coming in, they do now have more areas to spend out on so it is all relative.

Weeds around North Allington, also Mead Fields corner was raised. Usually this would be undertaken by Dorset Council. This can be reported directly to them on the online portal but we would be happy to take this forward to them if ever needed. Ward Clerk can always be contacted for this. A resident had swept out the bus shelter on Hospital Lane. Ward Clerk advised that this asset now belonged to the Town Council (previously owned by the Parish Council) and therefore this could be undertaken by BTC going forward as and when requested/needed.

Cllr Carney asked all present how they would like these meetings to take shape going forward. Residents are welcome to speak to Cllrs and Ward Clerk at any time to ask for things to be added to the agenda or requests etc. Please do contact any of us. It was suggested copies of meeting details could be put in the Medical Centre or Library. Possibly the Bridport News although this may incur a fee. We do currently advertise on noticeboards, facebook and website and will have a banner up, like today, when we are given permission.

1. **Elect Chair for next meeting**

It was agreed that Cllr Thornton would chair the next meeting

1. **Details of next meeting**

Thursday 19th September, 6.30pm at Bridport Children’s Centre

Meeting closed at 7.12pm