

**Will Austin
Town Clerk**

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To all Town Councillors


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17 September 2024

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to a meeting of the Town Council, to be held at **Bridport Town Hall on Tuesday 24 September 2024 at 7.00pm**, when it is proposed to transact the business shown in the agenda below. Virtual attendance is available for members of the public, at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84352612090?pwd=QTBkTI6eggGGxgp8LFa2PSOztpWfA0.1>, Meeting ID: 843 5261 2090, Passcode: 191071.

Yours sincerely



Town Clerk

The meeting is open to the public

AGENDA

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Prior to the start of each ordinary Council meeting, there will be an open Public Forum of up to 45 minutes for electors or residents in the parish of Bridport or adjoining parishes. This will be in two parts:

- a public discussion on a particular issue of current interest. Items for discussion, which shall be introduced by a councillor, shall be agreed by a previous Council meeting. There will be no time limits on public contributions in this section of the Open Forum. The topic for discussion is Care Provision in Bridport. Representatives of Dorset Council will present on this issue prior to discussion.
- public questions or statements, primarily in respect of other items on the agenda of the Town Council meeting, but also in the interests of wider public discussion. Each question/contribution under this section will not exceed three minutes in duration.

- 1. **APOLOGIES**
To receive apologies for absence submitted by Members.

- 2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive any declarations of interest by members.

- 3. **MINUTES**
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 25 June 2024 [\(copy herewith\)](#).

- 4. **STANDING ORDER 4(k)(vi)**
Questions from members, if any, received by the Clerk at least two days prior to the meeting, in accordance with Standing Order 4(k)(vi).

- 5. **COMMITTEES**
To receive and consider the minutes of the following meetings:
 - a. **Planning** **02 September 2024** [\(copy enclosed\)](#)

 - b. **Planning** **23 September 2024** **(to be tabled at the meeting if available)**

 - c. **Finance and General Purposes** **09 September 2024** [\(copy enclosed\)](#)
Including the following recommendations:
 - (Min No. 26)** **Financial Estimates 2024/25 – 1st Revision**
RECOMMENDED: that the 1st revision of the estimates for the year 2024/25 be approved.

 - (Min No. 27)** **Budget Planning 2024/25**
RECOMMENDED: that:
 - (i) membership of the Budget Working Group shall be Cllrs Ian Bark, Andrew Holdridge, Ann Langridge, Paddy Mooney and Sarah Williams; and
 - (ii) further nominations be invited at the next Full Council meeting.

 - (Min No. 31)** **Annual Governance & Accountability Return**
RECOMMENDED: that the report of the external auditor for the former Bradpole Parish Council for 2023/24 be received and approved.

 - d. **Environment and Social Wellbeing** **04 September 2024** [\(copy enclosed\)](#)

6. MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR ANNA KILLICK

To consider the following motion:

The Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan's Housing Need Assessment 2019 identified the number and type of housing needed to meet the needs of local people. However, the prevailing national and local models of housing provision have consistently failed to meet these needs.

The Neighbourhood Plan showed Bridport to be demographically unbalanced. The CPRE has highlighted that Dorset's median age and proportion of over 65s is one of the highest in England, fuelled by inward migration. Meanwhile, there remains an acute shortage of social housing and private rentals and over 4000 on the Dorset Council Housing Needs Register.

Proposals for the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) show no signs of resolving the flaws that perpetuate the affordable housing crisis and, instead, further reduce the powers of local planning authorities to be proactive in bringing about developments of one and two bedroom dwellings for social rent that are so desperately needed by local residents.

Secure, warm and dry housing is a basic human need. If, as councillors, we fail to address this need we are seriously failing our local residents.

Therefore, Bridport Town Council commits to:

- helping to develop and support local Community Land Trusts to build social housing, such as is currently being achieved by the Dorchester Town Council-backed CLT, which has just secured planning permission for 15 two bed flats in Dorchester in partnership with housing associations.
- open a continuing dialogue with Magna and other local housing associations to help with the delivery of social housing and support of residents
- help to identify and propose potential sites for new, solely, social housing developments
- include in the Neighbourhood Plan a provision of primary residence requirement for new homes

And Bridport Town Council calls upon Dorset Council to:

- Lobby central government, and to work in partnership with other local planning authorities to campaign for, greater devolved planning powers that allow them to develop a Local Plan that meets the needs of local residents rather than facilitating the growth of profits for national development companies. These powers should allow the local planning authority to be proactive in determining the type, scale and location of any new development rather than being forced to react to plans put forward by developers.
- Commit to over half of the building of new homes over the next five years to be social or affordable housing for rent and shared ownership.
- Dedicate revenue received from doubling second home council tax to a specific social housing fund.
- Develop a policy that urgently brings about the building of social housing for rent, beginning with land owned by Dorset Council. These developments could either be directly developed by the council or delivered by using and adapting the successful methods currently being used by other local authorities, for

instance by:

- creating a formal working partnership with local housing associations (e.g. Magna).
- creating a Dorset Council Development Corporation and/or exploring partnering with Somerset Council's existing Development Corporation to share resources and expertise.
- investigating grant funding from Homes England, and new not-for-profit and public/private partnerships.

7. REPORTS

To receive any reports from:

- Dorset Police;
- Dorset Council Members; and
- Town Council Wards.

8. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2024/25

To consider a report of the Town Clerk, [ENCL: 3929](#).

9. DORSET COUNCIL SURVEY

To consider a draft response to Dorset Council's 'Big Conversation' survey, [ENCL: 3930](#).

10. REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

To consider requests from Finance & General Purposes Committee to:

- (i) elect Town Council representatives to: Allington Hill & Cooper's Wood & Field Community Group, Magna Housing, Precision Football Arena and Pymore Village Management Company.
- (ii) approve a recommendation of the Planning Committee that Cllr Andy Holdridge be elected as representative to National Highways.

11. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

To agree issue for discussion at the next Open Forum.

12. COMMUNICATIONS

To receive such communications as the Town Mayor, [ENCL: 3931](#), Leader of the Council and the Town Clerk may wish to report to Council.

The next full meeting of Bridport Town Council will be held on 26 November 2024.