

**Will Austin  
Town Clerk**

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To all Town Councillors

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14 January 2025

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the Town Council to be held at **Bridport Town Hall on Tuesday 21 January 2025 at 7.00pm**, when it is proposed to transact the following business. Limited spaces will be available for public attendance.

Virtual attendance can be made available, provided a request is received by the Clerk, by midday on the day preceding the meeting.

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:

1. 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 "social housing".
2. 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 by a member of the public will not exceed three minutes in duration.

1. **APOLOGIES**  
To receive apologies for absence submitted by Members, and to consider any new or extended leave of absence arrangements.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To receive any declarations of interest from members.
3. **MINUTES**  
To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 26 November 2024 ([copy enclosed](#)).
4. **STANDING ORDER 14(b)**  
Questions, if any, pursuant to Standing Order 14(b).
5. **COMMITTEES**  
To receive and recommend adoption of the minutes of the following meetings:-
  - a. **Planning**                      **2 December 2024**                      **(previously circulated)**
  - b. **Planning**                      **6 January 2025**                      **[\(copy enclosed\)](#)**
  - c. **Finance & General Purposes**    **13 January 2025**                      **[\(copy enclosed\)](#)**

Including the following recommendations:

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>(Minute No. 59)</b><br>RECOMMEND: | <b>Best Value &amp; Scrutiny Sub-Committee</b><br>that the draft Councillor/Officer Protocol be approved.   |
| <b>(Minute No. 61)</b><br>RECOMMEND: | <b>Financial Estimates 2024/25 – 3rd Revision <a href="#">(ENCL: 3960)</a></b><br>that the 3 <sup>rd</sup> revision of the estimates for the year 2024/25 be approved.  |
| <b>(Minute No. 62)</b><br>RECOMMEND: | <b>Budget and Estimates 2025/26 <a href="#">(ENCL: 3961)</a></b><br>(a) that the draft estimates for 2025/26 be approved as set out in Appendix A.<br><br>(b) that the proposed fees and charges for 2025/26 be approved as set out in Appendix B.<br><br>(c) that the Medium Term Financial Plan be approved as a guide for future years as in Appendix C, noting that each year's budget will be subject to separate approval.<br><br>(d) that the draft capital programme and proposed use of reserves for 2025/26 and future years, as set out in section 4 of the report and at Appendix D, be approved, noting again that further approval is required. |

(e) that in terms of the precept, Option 2 be approved, as set out above and in section 12 of the report, which would increase the precept to £1,191,075 with a consequent annual Band 'D' charge of £204.44.

**(Minute No. 67)**

**Risk Assessment and Management: Annual Review**  
**(ENCL: 3965)**

RECOMMEND: that the Corporate Risk Assessment be approved as tabled.

d. **Environment and Social Wellbeing**      **8 January 2025**      **(copy enclosed)**

6. MOTION SUBMITTED BY CLLRS S CARNEY, A KILLICK AND P MOONEY

To consider the following motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 8:

Bridport Town Council believes that every resident of the town has the right to a decent and affordable home, which is also safe, secure and energy efficient. We reflect this in our new 5-Year Plan where we have given the highest priority to finding solutions to the housing crisis that exists in our community.

Based on the latest housing needs data our priority is securing the delivery of 1- and 2-bedroom properties, with a particular focus on providing homes for social rent for young adults (our highest priority) and larger properties for families, as these two groups are bearing the brunt of the affordability and availability crisis locally. We are united in tackling this issue which is vital to delivering successful outcomes for all our residents and contributing to the future economic, cultural and social success of the town.

We are committed to pro-actively working with local authorities, developers, housing associations, as well as community land trusts, charities and other organisations, to reduce the number of people on the housing register and to ensure that as much additional and genuinely affordable housing is provided on appropriate, available land, with social rent housing being given the highest priority on the re-development of brownfield and other development sites in the area.

We are also keen to work with residential and commercial landlords to improve the availability, standards and affordability of rental accommodation in the town. Last but not least, we will promote the need for all our new housing to be supported by improvements in local services and infrastructure.

7. REPORTS  
To receive any reports from:
  - Dorset Police;
  - Dorset Council Members; and
  - Town Council Wards.
  
8. TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES  
To elect a new representative on Bridport Food Matters in place of Cllr Ann Langridge.
  
9. TOWN COUNCIL FIVE-YEAR PLAN  
To consider a report of the Town Clerk, [ENCL: 3969](#).
  
10. MEETINGS CALENDAR  
To consider a report of the Town Clerk, [ENCL: 3970](#).
  
11. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES  
To receive such reports from member representatives to outside bodies as may be relevant to the Full Council (other committee-specific reports to be made to the appropriate committee).
  
12. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM  
To recommend the issue for discussion at the next Open Public Forum at the Council meeting to be held on 25 March 2025.
  
13. ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS  
To receive such announcements and communications as the Town Mayor, [ENCL: 3971](#), Leader of the Council, and the Town Clerk may wish to report.

**The next meeting of Bridport Town Council will be on 25 March 2025**