

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY & RESOURCES MEETING

Caddsdawn Business Support Centre - Bideford

Monday, 6 June 2022 - 6.00 pm

PRESENT Councillor R Hicks (Chair)
Councillors C Bright, D Bushby, P Christie, C Hodson, D Hurley,
K James, N Laws and R Lock

ALSO PRESENT S Dorey - Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring
Officer)
S Kearney - Head of Communities & Place
D Heyes - Finance Manager (Section 151 Officer)
T Vanstone - Senior Electoral & Democratic Services
Officer
S Cawsey - Democratic Services Officer

Councillors P Pennington

251. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Brenton.

252. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 25 APRIL 2022

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Lock and -

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2022 be signed as a correct record.

(Vote: For - Unanimous)

253. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

There were no public contributions.

254. FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan was noted.

255. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were made when the specific agenda items to which they related were under discussion.

256. AGREEMENT OF AGENDA BETWEEN PARTS I AND II

There were no Part II items.

257. URGENT MATTERS OF INFORMATION TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR AND THE COMMITTEE

There were no urgent matters brought forward.

258. LEASEHOLD DISPOSAL OF PART OF THE SPORTS GROUND, KINGSLEY RD, BIDEFORD

The Head of Communities & Place presented the report, the purpose of which was for Members to consider a new leasehold interest of 15 years of part of the Sports Ground, Kingsley Road, Bideford to Jurassic Fibre Ltd. for a compound to house a telecoms container to supply the local area with full fibre.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Lock and -

Resolved:

That the proposal for the leasehold disposal of the small parcel of land at the Sports Ground, Kingsley Road, as detailed in the report, be approved, and the completion of the associated lease documentation be authorised.

(Vote: For 8, Against 1)

259. MOTION FOR THE OCEAN

Councillor Hodson presented to Members her "Motion for the Ocean" which had previously been discussed at Full Council on 11 April 2022, when it was unanimously agreed that the Motion be referred to Community & Resources Committee.

Councillor Hodson made a heartfelt plea to Members asking for their support to the Motion and commenting on how important the Ocean is to us all.

During the discussion it was apparent that Members were in support, but concerns raised included the following:

- Future of the landfill site at Northam Burrows which they stated was the biggest threat to the Ocean in this area.
- The current position with the Pebble Ridge, reference was made to a Report prepared 15 years ago.
- South West Water continually allowing the estuary to be polluted when there is heavy rain storms in the area. Councillor Hodson advised that questions

were forwarded to South West Water with specific regard to discharge of sewage and the response back was it only happens occasionally and would be heavily diluted by rain water.

It was proposed by Councillor Hodson, seconded by Councillor Christie and –

Resolved:

That the Council pledges to:

1. Review within twelve months the actions and projects that have been undertaken to promote ocean recovery for the coast of Torridge District.
2. Consider ocean recovery in our strategic decisions, plans, budgets and approaches to decisions by the Council (particularly in planning, regeneration, skills and economic policy), aligning with climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements, and considering ocean-based solutions in our journey towards a carbon neutral and climate resilient future.
3. Ensure that the Local Nature Recovery Strategy strives to support ocean recovery.
4. Work with partners locally to deliver increased sustainability in marine industries and develop a sustainable and equitable blue economy that delivers ocean recovery and local prosperity.
5. Communication through our social media of actions which are being taken to aid ocean recovery progress, signpost ocean literacy development opportunities, and marine citizenship pledges.
6. Write to the Government asking them to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 by:
 - a) *Ensuring Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities and Natural England have the resources they need to effectively research and monitor our growing number of marine protected areas, and to set and enforce appropriate fishing levels that support local economies and deliver environmental sustainability.*
 - b) *Ensuring coastal communities have a meaningful say in the development of marine policy to ensure it delivers equitable and sustainable outcomes.*
 - c) *Appoint a dedicated Minister for Coastal Communities.*
 - d) *And by listening to marine scientific advice, including marine social science, to update the Marine Policy Statement and produce a national Ocean Recovery Strategy which will:*
 - i) *Enable the recovery of marine ecosystems rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.*
 - ii) *Consider levelling up, marine conservation, energy, industrial growth,*

flood and coastal erosion risk management, climate adaptation and fisheries policy holistically rather than as competing interests.

iii). Develop a smarter approach to managing the health of the entire ocean that moves beyond Marine Protected Areas and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.

iv). Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits of ocean recovery, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods, and wellbeing.

v). Stop plastic pollution at source by strengthening the regulations around single-use plastics and set standards for microfibre-catching filters to ensure that all new domestic and commercial washing machines are fitted with a filter that captures a high percentage of microfibres produced in the wash cycle.

(Vote: For – Unanimous)

260. PART II (CLOSED SESSION)

There were no Part II items

The meeting commenced at 18.00 and closed at 18.30