



Dorset
Council

Dorset Council

Date: Tuesday, 15 February 2022
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

All members of Dorset Council are requested to attend this meeting of the Full Council.

Chief Executive: Matt Prosser, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services
Meeting Contact susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, apart from any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda.

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Agenda

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To consider a report by the Service Manager – Democratic and Electoral Services.

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Recommendation 4 - Bridport Town Council

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that community governance changes would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Bridport Town Council to change the parish boundaries to include a number of existing parishes, or part thereof, to bring these within the Bridport parish boundary. The full submission can be seen as part of the responses document [here](#).

Dorset Council received 86 individual responses, and 126 responses via a leaflet published by Bridport Town Council supporting the proposals, all of which can be viewed in the responses document [here](#).

Dorset Council received 78 individual responses objecting to the proposals on the grounds that their parishes had a distinct identity and this would be lost if merged with Bridport Town Council. All the responses can be viewed in the responses document [here](#).

Responses were also received from the affected parishes as follows:

- Allington Parish Council
- Symondsbury Parish Council
- Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council
- Bradpole Parish Council
- Burton Bradstock Parish Council

A full copy of the submissions can be found in the responses document [here](#).

Members of a Community Governance Review Working Group, made up of Group Leaders and their deputies, considered all the responses received and also undertook a site visit to Bridport and surrounding parishes on 15 December 2021. The Working Group also invited all the parishes affected to address the Working Group on 20 December 2021 and 26 January 2022 to make their case for or against the proposals by Bridport Town Council, and in respect of any other changes to community governance arrangements they might wish to propose.

Following consideration of all the submissions received, Dorset Council is of the view that the Option 1 proposal put forward by Bridport Town Council would

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Dorset Council is persuaded by the arguments set out in the submission from Bridport Town Council that include:

- There is little separation between parishes, creating a sense of a single larger parish.
- A large number of services provided by the Town Council are enjoyed by residents of the wider area including the use of the community bus service, provision of community spaces and buildings etc.
- The Town Council manage a number of facilities/services that are outside of the town boundary.
- The designated area for the Bridport Neighbourhood Plan replicates the area proposed for the new Bridport parish.
- There is a strong sense of community cohesion with examples of residents across the area working together for a common goal e.g., the recent support network established to help residents during the coronavirus pandemic.
- The proposed warding arrangements will enable local centres to retain an identity of their own as is currently the case with West Bay which sits largely within the current Bridport parish.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make the changes to the current governance arrangements as set out in Map Recommendation No. 4 and 4A. The draft recommendation in respect of Councillor numbers and Ward names for Bridport Town Council, and Symondsburry Parish Council are as follows:

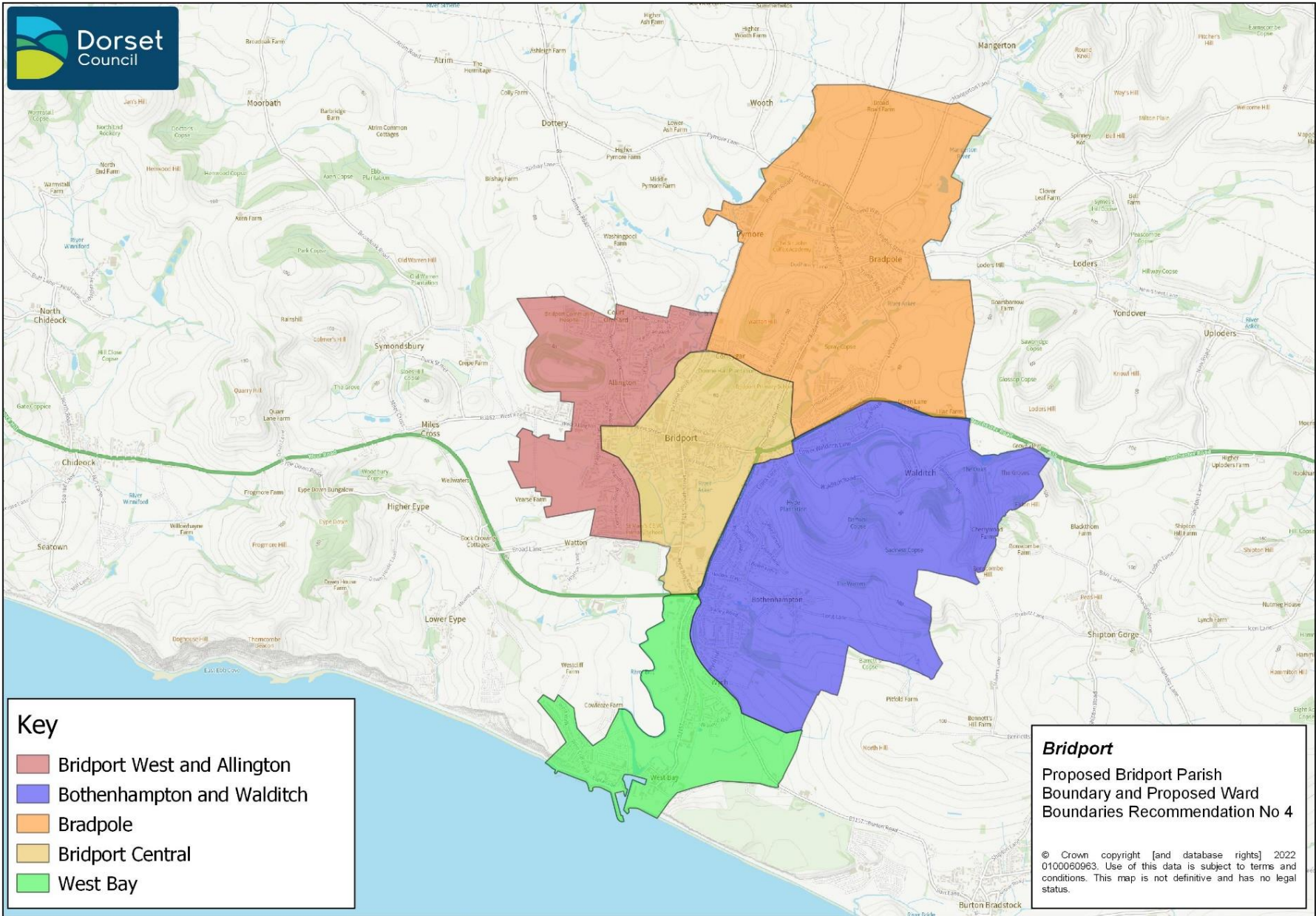
Bridport Town Council

Town Council Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Allington & West Bridport	5	3168	3168	634
Bothenhampton & Walditch	3	1843	1801	601
Bradpole	5	2614	2627	525
Central Bridport	5	2635	3149	629
West Bay	2	1038	1014	507

Symondsbury Parish Council

The draft recommendation incorporates the remaining parts of Symondsbury and Allington Parishes that are not being included within the proposed Bridport Parish. The draft recommendation is for the proposed Symondsbury Parish to be represented by 7 councillors.

Parish Council Ward	Current Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Pine View	1	155	N/A	N/A
Symondsbury	5	548	789	113 (7 councillors)
West Cliff	2	192	N/A	N/A

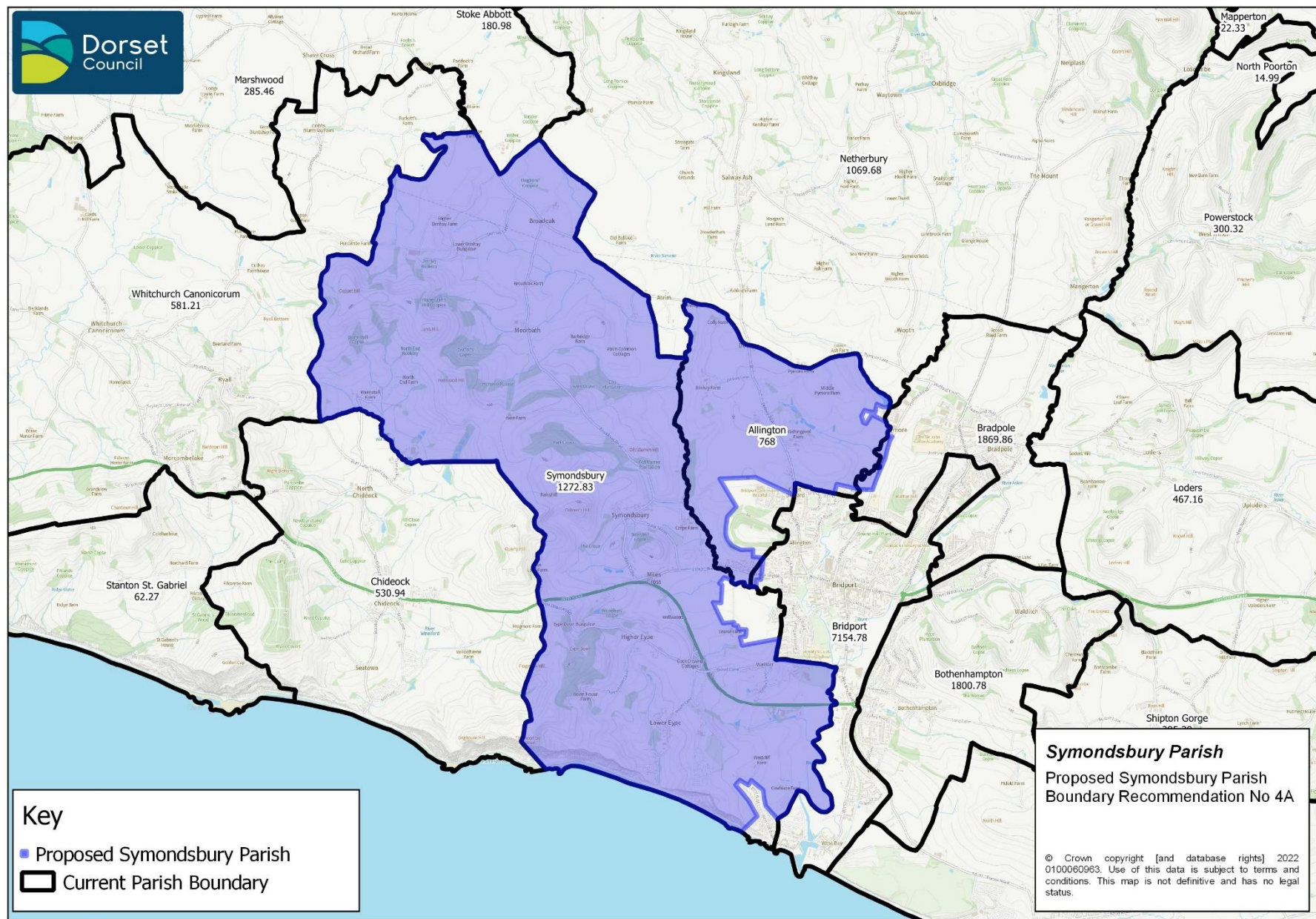


Key

- Bridport West and Allington
- Bothenhampton and Walditch
- Bradpole
- Bridport Central
- West Bay

Bridport
Proposed Bridport Parish
Boundary and Proposed Ward
Boundaries Recommendation No 4

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Key

- Proposed Symondsburry Parish
- Current Parish Boundary

Symondsburry Parish
 Proposed Symondsburry Parish
 Boundary Recommendation No 4A

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