

Other local councils, who also used Henry, were in the same position. Dorchester Town Council had advertised for a new auditor and asked candidates to agree that other councils, including Bridport, could meet the candidates and then decide on whether to interview any separately.

It was also reported that Henry Lovegrove had undertaken the first of his three visits for the 2013/14 audit on 21 October 2013. Having checked the systems for payments and salaries, no matters arose for comment.

RESOLVED: that the latest position on the 2013/14 audit be noted and the Town Clerk report back on proposals to appoint a new Internal Auditor for 2014/15 onwards.

27. HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT

The Town Clerk reported on the Risk Assessment report produced by Ellis Whittam and said that this was being looked at, with a view to producing an action plan.

In discussion of this issue, members mentioned the potential health and safety issues on market days from 'A' boards, reducing the space between the stalls and the shop fronts. It was asked if this could be looked at, especially bearing in mind the County Council's new policy on 'A' boards.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

28. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

RESOLVED: that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

29. FUTURE PROJECTS / DRAFT ESTIMATES 2014/2015

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2764.

Members received copies of the list of Town Plan projects, with proposed expenditure in 2014/15 and copies of the draft estimates for 2014/15.

The Sub Committee discussed the issues likely to affect the new budget. It was agreed that it was difficult to make any definite proposals, until the level of the Localisation of Council Tax grant and the tax base were known. The District Council had stated that this information might not be available until the New Year, as it was dependent on when they received confirmation from the Government on their grant settlement.

Members were reminded that no decisions were being taken at this time and the budget and the level of precept for next year would be considered at the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 15 January 2014 and approved at the full Town Council on 28 January 2014. However, this timing would depend on receiving information from the District Council on the level of the Localisation of Council Tax grant and the tax base.

To allow time for this information to be received, it was agreed that this Sub Committee meeting should reconvene in January. However, if the information was

not available, it might be necessary to change this date and also possibly the dates of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Council.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05p.m on December 2013, and reconvened on 13 January 2014 at 11.00a.m, when it was reported that the information required to complete the budget - the tax base and the level of the Localisation of Council Tax grant - had been received.

Members considered the draft budget and agreed that this should go forward for consideration to the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Council.

The meeting closed at 12.15 pm on 13 January 2014.

The next meeting of this Sub Committee will be held on 4 March 2014