

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the MARKET AND BUSINESS LIAISON SUB COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Tuesday, 15 February 2011 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Cllr: G.J. Ackerman (Chairman) (until 10.30 am)

Cllrs: N.K. Cast D.G. Rickard (ex officio) (until 11.30am)
C.M. Ray K.G. Wallace

Also in attendance: Cllr Mrs M.J. Ray, Ray McLaren (Market Superintendent) and Steve Hibbs (Market Traders' Association representative).

Cllr D.G. Rickard took the chair when Cllr G.J. Ackerman left the meeting and Cllr C.M. Ray took the chair when Cllr D.G. Rickard left the meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

The members of the public present did not wish to speak.

14. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

15. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2010, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor N.K. Cast declared a personal interest as an owner of a business in the town.

17. MARKET OPERATION

- (a) Report of the Market Superintendent, ENCL: 2333. Members considered the report.

It was reported that there had been some confusion on the previous Saturday regarding parking by traders in South Street, although the traders concerned did not have their permits with them. It was agreed that this matter would be taken up with the County Council.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

- (b) Stall numbers and takings April 2010 to date, ENCL: 2334. The Sub Committee welcomed the information contained in the report.

Members were pleased to note that the stall numbers and consequent income were noticeably higher than the equivalent period of the

previous financial year. Traders were thanked for their continued support of the market.

It was also reported that there had been an increase in the number of stalls attending on a Wednesday during February, with the flat fee being charged. Steve Hibbs thanked the Town Council for this additional support of the Wednesday market.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

- (c) Stalls – registered/casual traders April 2010 to date, ENCL: 2335.
The Sub Committee welcomed the information contained in the report.

It was noted that the proportion of casual traders was at a higher level than for the corresponding period last year, in line with the figures reported to the previous meeting of this Sub Committee.

- (d) The Town Surveyor provided an update on the following matters: -

- (i) Late Night Markets: Steve Hibbs reported that the traders were still interested in having late night markets during the summer months. They were aware that if they were to go ahead, then the traders would need to fully support them and ensure they were publicised and promoted.

It was also asked if a late night market in West Bay was a possibility. It was recognised that this was outside the market charter and would need discussion with West Dorset District Council. This was something that could perhaps be looked at in the longer term, but at this time, the feasibility of further later night markets in the town needed to be considered.

RESOLVED: that the possibility of late night town centre markets this summer be discussed further with the National Market Traders' Federation and a recommendation be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at its March meeting.

- (ii) Park and Ride:

The proposed arrangements for the Park and Ride this year were reported and it was also noted that the possibility of extending the service to cover the Hat Festival weekend was being looked at.

RESOLVED: that the proposals for this year's Park and Ride service be noted.

- (iii) Health and Safety Audit:

It was noted that this was complete, with just the special event to be added.

(iv) Street Lighting:

The latest position on the street lighting proposals for the town centre was noted. A design had been produced by the contractors, which will see the same number of columns replaced in the town centre and the additional lighting required would be put on the buildings i.e. there would be no additional columns in the agreed area of East, West and South Street. The columns to be replaced would be in keeping with the area and proposed designs were circulated at the meeting.

Electricity provision for market stalls was still being looked at, although this might not now be possible as part of the columns themselves and some other arrangement might be necessary.

The timescale for the work was dependent on obtaining permission from the building owners, for lights on buildings. The Sub Committee would receive a report back to a future meeting on how the scheme will be delivered.

The update was noted.

(v) Christmas Markets:

There would be no need to rearrange the markets for this coming Christmas as the market days fell on non Bank Holidays. The late night Christmas market was due to be on 7 December and there would be more information nearer the time.

(vi) Road Closures:

The Town Surveyor reported on the following proposed closures:

March 26 - Freedom March
July 2 - Charter Fair (to be confirmed)
September 3 - International Bands Day
December 7 - Christmas Festival

(vii) Gusto Markets:

The Chamber of Trade and Commerce had suggested that Barrack Street should be looked at again for a Gusto Market, which had been tried previously.

The location of the food stalls on the market was also raised and whether this was something that could be looked at in future.

The Town Surveyor was asked to report back on these matters in due course.

(viii) Market Bags:

The Town Surveyor reported that the bags would be promoted again during the summer.

(ix) Town Hall:

Members noted the update on progress of the Town Hall works.

18. MARKET CHARGES

Consideration was given to the recommended charges, ENCL: 2343.

The Town Clerk reported that discussions had taken place with the National Market Traders' Federation and he reported the proposed fees for next year. The Town Clerk had been given delegated authority to agree the fees, subject to consultation with the Sub Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed charges for 2011/12 be supported:

- (i) Registered Trader £1.45p per 30 cm. run per day
Non registered Trader £2.30p per 30 cm. run per day

- (ii) the following reduced market tolls be levied for the winter months of January, February and March:

Registered Trader £0.75p per 30 cm. run per day
Non registered Trader £1.60p per 30 cm. run per day

- (iii) for the Wednesday market only, the winter fees as in (ii) above to again also apply for the months of November and December.

19. MARKET TRADERS

The Sub Committee considered items raised by the local branch of the National Market Traders' Federation.

- Allocation of Pitches: The Town Surveyor clarified the process on the allocation of pitches on the market and the recent allocation of a pitch to the Samways fish stall.

Members noted the process. It was also felt that it would be helpful for a procedure note to be produced to confirm the allocation process.

- Farmers' market: It was reported that there was a lot of disruption at peak times, with parking for the Farmers' Market at the Arts Centre. The Town Surveyor said that he would raise this matter with the Arts Centre.

- Frontages: It was reported that cakes were being sold outside Longs. The Town Surveyor said that he would look at this.

20. BRIDPORT CHAMBER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

The last meeting of the Chamber was held on 8 February 2011. Cllr K.G. Wallace had been attending meetings as the Town Council's representative. The items considered were reported for information.

The update was noted.

21. FREEDOM MARCH – SATURDAY 26 MARCH 2011

The Town Clerk reported the arrangements for the Freedom March and it was noted that there would be a need to relocate some stalls at the top of South Street, near Bucky Doo Square, on to the Arts Centre forecourt.

The meeting closed at 11:35 am.

The next meeting of the Market and Business Liaison Sub Committee will be held on a date to be agreed at the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting to be held on 30 March 2011