

## FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the MARKET AND BUSINESS LIAISON SUB COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Tuesday, 16 February 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Cllr: G.J. Ackerman (Chairman)

Cllrs: Ms G.E. Massey    Ms S.J. Williams  
Mrs E.A. Rickard

Also in attendance: Scott Condliffe (Bridport and District Tourism Association), Richard Smith (Chamber of Trade and Commerce), Roy Gregory (Market Traders' Representative), Terri Foxwell (Tourist Information Centre Manager) and Ken Hussey (Market Superintendent).

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Ms T. Chandler spoke in support of the revised proposal for a local producers' market on St Michael's Trading Estate. A number of local producers had said that they would like a second day's trading and it was felt that this would not impact on the Saturday market.

Mr M. Ridley from St Michael's Trading Estate said that they would not want to do anything that the Town Council would not support but they did want to do something that they felt would support traders on the Estate.

### **29. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **30. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2015, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **32. PROPOSAL FOR NEW LOCAL PRODUCERS' MARKET AT ST MICHAEL'S TRADING ESTATE**

Members discussed the revised proposal to hold the producers' market on a Sunday. It was reported that the market traders that had been spoken to, had no objections if the producers' market was not on an existing market day. In general the Sub Committee felt that, bearing in mind that the day had now been changed, there was no reason for the Town Council to object subject to a review after a few months of operation.

RESOLVED: that there be no objections to the revised proposals for the new local producers' market on St Michael's Trading Estate subject to a review and report back after it has been operating for a number of months.

**33. EVENTS 2016**

The Town Clerk and Town Surveyor reported on the events to be supported by the Town Council this coming year.

There was a discussion regarding the need for an all day road closure for South Street for the Hat Festival, as this had been raised by some market traders. The Town Surveyor said that he would be happy to talk to traders about this although the closure was necessary on health and safety grounds. It was unlikely that the timings could be changed. The wording for the road closure signs would though be confirmed.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**34. TOURIST INFORMATION SERVICE IN BRIDPORT**

The Town Clerk reported that discussions were continuing with the District Council regarding the Town Council taking over the management of the TIC. It was hoped that a report could be made to the Town Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee in March seeking approval for the arrangements, which, if approved, were likely to start from September 2016.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**35. SUB COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP**

The Town Clerk reported that the issues discussed at the meeting included:

- proposals for a new re-designed community web site. It was hoped that proposals could be considered at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- options for new market bags. The Town Surveyor showed examples of the proposed design and it was hoped to place the orders soon

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**36. MARKET OPERATION**

The Town Surveyor reported that the attendance and takings were slightly down on the same time last year. Bearing in mind the poor weather on a number of market days, this was felt to be good although further promotion of the market was to be looked at.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**37. MARKET CHARGES 2016/17**

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3057.

Bearing in mind the recent difficult weather conditions and the importance of the market, it was proposed to leave the fees unchanged for the coming year.

The fees for the current and previous two years were:

| per 30 cm. run per day |                       | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Summer                 | Registered Trader     | £1.50   | £1.60   | £1.60   |
|                        | Non Registered Trader | £2.50   | £2.60   | £2.80   |
| Winter                 | Registered Trader     | £0.75   | £0.75   | £0.75   |
|                        | Non Registered Trader | £1.60   | £1.60   | £1.60   |

Winter rates applied on Wednesdays in November and December and on both days from January to March, with the exception that the fees for Wednesdays were capped at no more than £5 for registered traders during January and February.

Only three businesses still paid a frontage fee at £130 per annum and this was being phased out, as and when the opportunity arose.

RECOMMEND: that subject to consultation with traders, the market and frontage fees remain unchanged for 2016/17.

**38. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MARKET AUTHORITIES UPDATE ON CURRENT ISSUES**

There were no issues to report.

**39. MARKET TRADERS**

Roy Gregory, on behalf of the Traders, said that there was a general perception that since October the market had suffered with the very bad weather on market days.

He reported that he had to stand down as the traders' representative. He felt that it was important that there was a regular newsletter, asking for comments and contributions from the traders' themselves. The newsletter could also ask for a new traders' representative to come forward.

Roy was thanked for his work in representing the traders. It was agreed that regular newsletters were needed and traders should be asked to nominate a new representative.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**40. CHAMBER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE**

Richard Smith, on behalf of the Chamber, reported on the following issues.

Car Parking was a key issue for Chamber members. There was a feeling that something needed to be done to improve the parking situation and the Chamber felt that the Town Council could be asked to take over the management of the car parks.

The Town Clerk reported that he and the Town Surveyor were to meet with the Head of Parking Services to discuss car parking issues. At this time, there were no proposals for changes in the local management of car parking. However, the need for more car parking featured in the Coastal Community Team Economic Plan and the Town Council was looking to provide additional spaces at Plottingham and, as a temporary measure, on Asker Meadows show field.

Richard added that the Chamber would be happy to support any steps to improve car parking provision in the area and would be happy to submit supporting comments on the planning applications for Plottingham and Asker Meadows.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**41. BRIDPORT & DISTRICT TOURISM ASSOCIATION**

Scott Condliffe, on behalf of the Association, reported on the following issues.

The Association supported the calls for additional parking in the town and particularly for additional short term parking at busy times.

It had also raised traffic management following accidents and disruption on the A35. It was agreed that this issue could be raised by the Town Council at the next meeting of the A35 Working Group, which was due on 8 April.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**The meeting closed at 11:10am.**

**The next meeting of the Sub Committee will be held on 29 March 2016 at 10am**