

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the MARKET AND BUSINESS LIAISON SUB COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Tuesday, 17 February 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Cllrs: Mrs M.J. Ray Ms S.J. Williams
 D.G. Rickard

Also present: Cllrs C.M. Ray and Mrs E.A. Rickard.

Also in attendance: Scott Condliffe (Bridport and District Tourism Association), Richard Smith (Chamber of Trade and Commerce), Amanda Streatfeild (Bridport Local Area Partnership), Roy Gregory (Market Traders' Representative) and Ken Hussey (Market Superintendent).

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the Public Forum.

25. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr Miss S.A. Brown and Terri Foxwell, Tourist Information Centre Manager.

26. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2014, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

28. EVENTS 2015

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

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

29. CAR PARK SIGNAGE & MARKET LEAFLET

The Town Surveyor reported that the new signs, produced through the Sub Committee's working group, were now in most of the car parks. He also showed a draft of the new market leaflet.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and the market leaflet be finalised, in consultation with the Sub Committee Working Group.

30. TOWN GUIDE

The Town Clerk reported that the intention now was to ensure that copies of the Guide were available in the holiday parks and this would happen in conjunction with the TIC.

It was asked if the Guide could be available free of charge for residents of the wider Bridport area and it was agreed that this would be looked at.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

31. TOURIST INFORMATION SERVICE IN BRIDPORT

The Town Clerk reported on the current timetable for the review, which included ongoing stakeholder engagement/consultation until July, public consultation later in the year and decisions due in December/January.

The Town Council has had meetings with the District Council to discuss options for the service and reports will come to members during 2015/16, after the May elections, to consider future service provision. The Town Council has stated that it would want the District Council to continue to provide the service, but will continue to discuss the options, in the light of the District Council's wish to make savings.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

32. MARKET OPERATION

The latest market performance reports, ENCLS: 2945 and 2946, were noted.

The Town Surveyor announced that in early January, Ken Hussey succeeded the retiring Ray McLaren as the Market Superintendent. Ken was welcomed to the meeting.

Overall the takings this year were slightly down compared to the same time last year.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

33. MARKET CHARGES 2015/16

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2947.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk meets with the Market's representative, Roy Gregory, to discuss the level of next year's fees and report to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for approval.

34. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MARKET AUTHORITIES UPDATE ON CURRENT ISSUES

The Town Surveyor reported that on 25 February, the Town Council will welcome the National Association of British Market Authorities to the Town Hall for a roadshow on the importance of markets. Bridport was chosen following his presentation on Bridport market at the Association's Annual

Conference. Representatives from across the south west will be attending, to hear about Bridport's street market and also to receive advice from the Association on setting up and running successful markets.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

35. MARKET TRADERS

There were no issues raised on behalf of the market traders.

There was a discussion about the representation of the market and whether it would be helpful to have a second representative. It was agreed that this would be raised with the traders.

RESOLVED: that market trader representation on the Sub Committee be discussed further with traders and reported back.

36. CHAMBER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

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

- Use of web based media, such as mobile apps, to promote the town.
- SW Business Forum, in partnership with the District Council, was looking to apply for funding for the area.
- There had also been discussion about the possibilities of public Wi-Fi in the town.

RESOLVED: that the issues of web site, web based media and options for town Wi-Fi be discussed by the Sub Committee's Working Group.

37. BRIDPORT & DISTRICT TOURISM ASSOCIATION

Scott Condliffe, on behalf of the Association, updated on the following issues:

- The Association greatly valued the work of BLAP and emphasised the importance of the co-ordinator's role, bearing in mind the ongoing service review.
- Broadchurch was featuring heavily in tourism at the current time, helping to increase interest in the area.
- The coastal path at West Bexington was being cleared after last year's storms and it was important that the coastal path was fully accessible, as it was such an important attraction.
- The Tourism Association AGM was taking place on 23 February at 2.15pm in the Town Hall.

The update was noted.

38. FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP

The Sub Committee Working Group will meet again on Tuesday 3 March at 3pm in Mountfield.

The meeting closed at 10:45am.

The next meeting of the Sub Committee will be held on 31 March 2015 at 10am