

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the MARKET AND BUSINESS LIAISON SUB COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Tuesday, 20 October 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Cllrs: Miss S.A. Brown Ms S.J. Williams
Mrs E.A. Rickard

Also present: Cllrs C.M. Ray and Mrs M.J. Ray.

Also in attendance: Scott Condliffe (Bridport and District Tourism Association), Richard Smith (Chamber of Trade and Commerce), Terri Foxwell (Bridport TIC Manager), Amanda Streatfeild (BLAP) and Ken Hussey (Market Superintendent).

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr S. Hibbs, Market Trader, spoke in objection to any proposal to hold the local producers market on St Michael's Trading Estate, on the same day as the street market.

Ms T. Chandler spoke in support of the proposals for the food market on St Michael's using local food producers. She said that it was still a proposal and not confirmed, but it was hoped that it would be supported.

Mr M. Ridley on behalf of Hayward & Co, said that they had been approached for some space on St Michael's Trading Estate to hold the market. An area was suggested that could be made available, but no detailed discussions had taken place with the organisers. They would certainly not want any such market to be in competition with the existing market.

Mr M. Ridley, on a different point, spoke about the need to support trading estates. There were seven estates in the Bridport area, with up to 200 small businesses and it was important that they received support. Hayward's had just issued a newsletter to all its tenants.

15. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr Ms G.E. Massey.

16. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2015, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following non-pecuniary interests were declared:

(Min 18) Roy Gregory said that he had an interest in a business on St Michael's Trading Estate, but that he would be commenting on behalf of market traders on the proposed local producers' market.

(Min 19) Councillor Miss S.A. Brown declared an interest as a member of the Charter Fair Committee and Councillor Ms S.J. Williams declared an interest as a member of the Hat Festival Committee.

18. PROPOSAL FOR NEW LOCAL PRODUCERS' MARKET AT ST MICHAEL'S TRADING ESTATE

The proposal was discussed and it was generally felt that, whilst local producers should be supported, it was important not to detract or compete with the street market on Saturdays and Wednesdays. There were other opportunities to support the local producers, either through them taking a stall on the street market, or looking at going ahead on a different day. It was important also that the conditions of the Market Charter were not contravened.

RECOMMEND: that the proposal for a local producers' market at the St Michael's Trading Estate not be supported on a market day and discussions take place with the organisers, to consider other options to support the local producers.

19. EVENTS 2015

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

In discussion, it was emphasised that Market Traders were concerned at the impact on trade of road closures on a Saturday for events held during the day, including the Hat Festival and in particular, the Charter Fair. It was asked if it was feasible to consider other days for these events and if the arrangements for the Charter Fair could be discussed with the organisers.

It was commented that the Hat Festival was very successful and it would be difficult to move it to another day, but the Festival Committee would discuss the suggestion from the Market Traders, as well as looking at the length of time of the required closure.

The Town Council was to review its support for all town events and this would include the arrangements for temporary road closures. It would invite the organisers of the Charter Fair to the Finance and General Purposes Committee, to discuss options for future events and Town Council support.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and the Finance and General Purposes Committee, as part of its review of support for future events and the provision of road closures, consider in particular the future arrangements to support the Charter Fair.

20. CHRISTMAS CHEER AND DECORATIONS

The Town Surveyor reported that the arrangements for this year's Christmas Cheer were going very well.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

21. TOURIST INFORMATION SERVICE IN BRIDPORT

The Town Clerk reported that, as part of the Service Review process, discussions were taking place with West Dorset District Council to ensure the continued provision

of the TIC service in Bridport. The Town Council's position remained that it wished the District Council to provide the service, but, in recognition of the need to identify savings, it was discussing other options to safeguard the service.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

22. MARKET OPERATION

The latest reports on the market performance were noted.

The market had continued to do well this year.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

23. MARKET TRADERS

The following issues were raised on behalf of the market traders:

- Market Promotion - need to continue to look at the best ways to promote the town and the market. This included signage on roads and the entrances to the town. (Signage at St Michael's was also mentioned).

It was reported that signage would be looked at by the Sub Committee's Working Group.

- Newsletter – a new market newsletter was needed, to include an invitation for people to come forward who might like to represent the traders.
- Christmas markets – it was asked if there could be an additional market on Christmas Eve.

It was agreed that traders would be asked, in the Newsletter, if they would support a market on Christmas Eve.

- Review of Market Trader Conditions – as was agreed at the last meeting, this was needed, to consider a reference to the earliest leaving time, due to the impact of traders finishing early.

24. MARKET BAGS

The Town Surveyor reported that the Town Council would be looking at producing new reusable market bags and would be taking a report to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

25. COASTAL COMMUNITIES TEAM

The Town Clerk reported that a Project Manager had been appointed to ensure that the Economic Plan was produced by the end of January. There would be consultation as part of the production of the Plan.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

26. CHAMBER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

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

- The Business Showcase had been successful, with all the stands taken and there would be consideration to holding the event again next year, although possibly later on a Wednesday.
- The town streets were not looking as good as they had. The possible steam cleaning of the pavements and sweeping up of leaves at the bottom of West Street, was also mentioned.

It was reported that the street cleaning issues would be taken up with Dorset Waste Partnership.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

27. BRIDPORT & DISTRICT TOURISM ASSOCIATION

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

- Parking was now reaching crisis levels and would start to have an impact on visitor numbers, particularly for West Bay. There was a need to start to work towards a long term solution.

It was reported that the Town Council, with West Dorset District Council, would look at the options, including possible temporary parking for events.

- First Bus services were being affected by traffic through the town. The traffic lights were being left on at the Town Hall, even when the temporary road closures were in place.

It was reported that traffic issues were to be picked up in the town centre feasibility study.

- There were issues with events happening on the same day. It was hoped that these could be spread out more and that more early information was produced on forthcoming events.

The Town Council was maintaining a calendar of events, to try to publicise events as early as possible.

The update was noted.

28. FUTURE MEETINGS AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

It was agreed that there should be a further Working Group meeting in November, date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 11:45am.

The next meeting of the Sub Committee will be held on 16 February 2015 at 10am