

Minutes of the MEETING of the FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday 28 March 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr: K.G. Wallace (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)
Cllrs: G.J. Ackerman J.T. May
Miss S.A. Brown Ms A-M.A. Vincent

Also in attendance: Cllrs: Ms G.E. Massey and D.G. Rickard.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

133. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllrs: C.M. Ray, Mrs M.J. Ray and D.R. Tett.

134. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 January 2012 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

135. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Miss S.A. Brown declared a personal interest in minute 149, as a member of the Museum Trust.

Cllr K.G. Wallace declared a personal interest in minute 139, as a member of Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council and Dorset County Council.

136. MARKET AND BUSINESS LIAISON SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 14 February 2012 be received and noted.

137. BEST VALUE, SCRUTINY AND BRIDPORT AND WEST BAY TOWN PLAN SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 6 March 2012 be received and the following recommendations be approved: - .

(Min 40) Asset Register

RESOLVED: that the asset register be approved for 2012 and the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to make any final amendments.

(Min 41) Investment Review 2011/12 and Strategy 2012/13

RECOMMEND: that the Annual Investment Strategy for 2011/12, attached as an Appendix to the report, be adopted without amendment for 2012/13.

138. TOWN HALL AND BUCKY DOO WORKING PARTY

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Working Party held on 26 January 2012 be received and noted.

139. LENGTHSMAN SERVICE 2012/2013

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2515.

RESOLVED: that

- (a) the position on the Lengthsman scheme be noted and it be agreed that the services continue to be provided under the scheme, at a cost of £15 per hour, for 2012/2013.
- (b) it be noted that this was the final year of the initial partnership agreement and further reports be received on the scheme and the future provision of the service.

140. PROJECT SUPPORT FOR 2012 – IDENTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2520.

RESOLVED: that additional funding be earmarked for projects as set out in the report.

141. MARKET CHARGES 2012/2013

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2516.

RESOLVED: that the market fees for 2012/13 be approved as follows:

- (i) Registered Trader £1.45p per 30 cm. run per day
Non registered Trader £2.40p 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.
- (iv) for Wednesdays only in January and February 2013, registered traders to be charged no more than £5.
- (v) the annual frontage charge shall be £130.

142. TOWN HALL HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION PROJECT

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2524.

RESOLVED: that the position on the Town Hall Heritage and Conservation Project be noted, as outlined in the report.

143. SOUTH STREET TOILETS

The Town Surveyor reported that the building work was on schedule and was hoped to be completed by the end of April.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

144. SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY THE SURVEYOR

Councillors considered the report of the Town Surveyor, ENCL: 2525.

The Town Surveyor provided updates on the following: -

- Park and Ride
- Ongoing and new annual events
- Gas works in South Street
- Fisherman's Green and conversion of the former public toilets.
- Street lighting in East and West Streets
- Mobile CCTV poles
- Priors Lane allotments
- Allotments: skips for recycling and water tanks
- Borough Gardens

He also reported on a proposal to purchase a litter collector, as outlined in the report, and it was:

RESOLVED: that a litter picker costing £1,020 be purchased, with the costs to be met from within the amenity areas and playing fields budget for 2011/12.

145. WDDC – LAND DISPOSALS UPDATE

The Town Clerk updated members for information on progress with the land transfers from West Dorset District Council.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

146. MULTI USE GAMES ARENA – FUNDING APPLICATION

The Town Clerk reported on the proposed submission of an application to Sport England, under their inspired facilities programme, for funding for the Multi Use Games Arena, next to Bridport Football Club. The application was likely to be for £30,000.

RESOLVED: that the proposed funding application be approved

147. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2521.

RECOMMEND: that the calendar of meetings for 2012/13 be approved.

148. WDDC CORPORATE PLAN 2012/2016

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2517.

RECOMMEND: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to respond to the consultation on the draft Plan, subject to any comments from the full Town Council.

149. WDDC SPORTS, MUSEUMS & ARTS STRATEGIES

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2518.

It was noted that the Arts and Museums Support Plan proposed continued support for both the Arts Centre and Museum.

RECOMMEND: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to respond to the consultation on the Strategies, subject to any comments from the full Town Council.

150. DORSET OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2519.

Members had some concerns about whether the Town Council had the resources to be able to support temporary placements, but generally felt that the Council should participate in the scheme.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council indicate that it would participate in this voluntary scheme, subject to having sufficient capacity to support placements and appropriate projects being identified.

151. DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AND SPIRIT OF BRIDPORT UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported on the following arrangements for the Jubilee:

- it was still hoped to arrange a Parade to Church on the Sunday, subject to sufficient support.
- the flags and bunting would be put up in May.
- it was proposed to plant up both roundabouts into town.
- the Community Orchard was hosting a Big Lunch on the Sunday.

There would be a full report on the Spirit events, to the next meeting of this Committee.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

152. BRIDPORT TORCH CELEBRATIONS

The Town Clerk updated on the arrangements to mark the route of the Olympic torch through the town on 12 July.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

153. ARTS CENTRE – SUPPORT

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2522.

RESOLVED: that £500 be approved as a contribution towards the feasibility work for the Arts Centre Capital Development Stage 2 Project, to be taken from the under spend in the grants budget.

154. TENNIS CLUB – CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The Town Clerk reported on a recent meeting with the tennis club and their recent activities. It was reported that the hire charge for public use of the courts was proposed to be increased from £4 to £5.

Members welcomed the report and the continued popularity of the tennis courts.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted and the proposed change to the hire charge be supported.

155. YOUTH COUNCIL WORKING GROUP

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2523.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the issues discussed by the Working Group be noted and endorsed,
- (b) that Councillor K.G. Wallace be added to the membership of the Working Group.

156. DAPTC

The Town Clerk reported on a recent seminar on the Localism Act.

The update was noted.

157. FURTHER MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that a further meeting of this Committee be held on Wednesday 25 April 2012.

158. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Town Clerk reported on the need to ensure that the Town Council was represented and able to attend meetings of relevant outside bodies. There was also a discussion about the best way for members to report back.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk submit a future report on representation on outside bodies, including memberships, responsibilities and reporting back arrangements.

159. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

The Town Clerk reported that there had been no further review of the scheme and it was therefore intended that the scheme continue unamended for 2012/13.

RESOLVED: that the existing scheme of Members' Allowances continue for 2012/13.

160. CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items raised.

161. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor said that he would provide his list of engagements to the full council meeting on 17 April 2012.

The Town Clerk reported on the donation to the town of a new Union Parade Standard. The donation had been made anonymously and was welcomed by members.

162. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Town Clerk presented List 5 of the 2011/12 accounts, in the sum of £373,044.00, which had been authorised for payment since the last meeting. This having been tabled for members' information, was approved and signed by the Chairman.

163. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

RESOLVED: that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was agreed that in the public interest the public be temporarily excluded whilst the Committee considered the following matters:

164. MAGISTRATES' COURT – RIGHT OF WAY

The Town Clerk reported that he was to have a meeting on 29 March with a representative of HM Courts Service, to hear what proposals there were for the future of the site. The update was noted

165. STAFFING MATTERS

The Town Clerk reported that the annual staff review would be circulated for consideration at the meeting to be held on 25 April 2012.

166. PROPERTY MATTERS

The Town Clerk updated on ongoing lease renewals, including the need to renew the lease at Mountfield for the Exeter Drugs Project.

The meeting closed at **8.25 p.m.**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 25 April 2012