

## FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the MARKET AND BUSINESS LIAISON SUB COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Tuesday, 31 March 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Cllrs: Miss S.A. Brown                      Ms S.J. Williams  
D.G. Rickard (until 10.40am)

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.

#### **39. APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr Mrs M.J. Ray.

#### **40. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2015, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

Richard Smith (under minute 42) mentioned that he had a commercial interest in the provision of wi-fi. Whilst he could provide information on this subject, he would not take part in any decision making on whether to go ahead with such a scheme.

#### **42. REPORT BACK FROM MEETING OF SUB COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP**

The Working Group had discussed the possibility of introducing public wi-fi throughout the town.

Richard Smith, on behalf of the Chamber, said that this was something that was also being looked at by the South and West Dorset Business Forum.

It was agreed that this should continue to be looked at, with updates from the Forum.

The Working Group was also looking at the community web site.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**43. TOURIST INFORMATION SERVICE IN BRIDPORT**

The Town Clerk confirmed that, in response to the District Council service review, the Town Council would be looking at the options for the TIC at an early stage of the new Council after May. He was also due to meet with the Head of Tourism and Events in early May to discuss this matter further.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**44. MARKET ROADSHOW**

The Town Surveyor reported on the recent National Association of British Market Authorities' roadshow. There had been a lot of positive feedback from people who attended and the event had raised a number of interesting issues, which would be looked at further.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**45. ECONOMIC REVIEW CONSULTATION**

It was reported that the County Council was looking at options to deliver economic development, bringing together, in either a combined authority or economic prosperity board, different aspects such as transport, health care and education. This would not be a merged or unitary council, but bring together some individual decision-making powers, to provide a more joined up approach to economic development.

It was noted that comments could be submitted by the end of April and it was felt that this should be looked at further with the Working Group members.

RESOLVED: that the consultation be noted and be considered further with the Working Group.

**46. MARKET OPERATION**

The latest reports on the performance of the market were noted.

The Town Surveyor reported that the end of year market takings were slightly down on last year and, bearing in mind the poor weather on many Saturdays, this was a good achievement. The new market leaflet was being distributed widely, providing more information for visitors.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**47. MARKET TRADERS**

Roy Gregory, on behalf of the Traders, raised the issue of some stalls packing up early and the impact on the market in the afternoon. It was asked if there could be a requirement that traders could not take down their stall before 2.30pm, unless there were extreme weather conditions. It was asked if this could be looked at through the market terms and conditions.

It was also suggested that it would be helpful if more entertainment could be provided in the afternoons, which might help to attract visitors.

RESOLVED: that, as part of the review of the market terms and conditions, a provision be considered specifying the earliest time for taking down stalls.

**48. CHAMBER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE**

Richard Smith, on behalf of the Chamber, said that he had been elected as President for the coming year. He was looking to promote the Chamber and increase the membership in Bridport and West Bay, around the theme of "Better Together" and working with other organisations.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**49. BRIDPORT & DISTRICT TOURISM ASSOCIATION**

Scott Condliffe, on behalf of Bridport & District Tourism Association, reported on the need for more car parking in the town, particularly in West Bay and its impact on trade.

In discussion, it was mentioned that the need for more car parking was supported by the Chamber of Trade and Commerce. It was asked whether there were options for additional links between the town and West Bay on Sunday, possibly through an additional park and ride service, although it was recognised that funding would need to be identified.

It was reported that a parking survey was to be carried out, which could be reported to a future meeting of this Sub Committee.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**50. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

This would be discussed at the next meeting of the Working Group and the first Sub Committee after the elections.

**51. FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP**

The Town Clerk reported that it was hoped to hold a Working Group meeting prior to the May elections.

**The meeting closed at 11.07am.**

**The next meeting of the Sub Committee will be held on 30 June 2015 at 10am**