

(d) Operational Matters

The Town Surveyor provided an update on ongoing issues. Members discussed the reported concerns of The Woodman Inn Public House and the items being sold by a stall that had been placed on an occasion outside the Public House.

The Town Surveyor said that he would be meeting the Landlord to discuss this matter. He would look at any health and safety issues and members supported the approach being taken by the Town Surveyor.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

19. GAS WORKS

The Town Surveyor reported the latest position on the gas works in South Street and that they would soon be introducing one way working for traffic. The works should be up to Gundry Lane by the end of March and then would cease and not start up again until September.

The Town Council had been providing additional cover on Saturdays, to assist with parking by market vehicles.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

20. EVENTS 2012

The Town Clerk reported on the preparations being made by the Spirit of Bridport to celebrate 2012 and also to mark the route of the Olympic torch through Bridport on 12 July. Arrangements were also being made to “dress the town” with flags and bunting for the Jubilee and Spirit celebrations.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

21. MARKET CHARGES

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2505.

Members discussed the need for continued support for the market and particularly for the registered traders. The fixed charge on Wednesdays of no more than £5 for registered traders in January and February had been welcomed.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk discuss the fees for next year with the National Market Traders’ Federation and report to the Finance and General Purposes Committee with details for approval.

22. PARKING FOR MARKET TRADERS

The Town Clerk updated on the issues raised by a market trader relating to the allocation of parking permits for traders. A letter had been received, which was reported, suggesting alternative solutions.

It was noted that the new market conditions now referred to parking permits being issued to allow traders to park with their vehicles, where this was possible. Members reiterated their support for the parking permit scheme and did not feel that the alternatives suggested were feasible.

In view of the loss of the Grove site for traders' parking, it was asked that other alternative options for parking continue to be kept under review and West Dorset District Council also be asked for its view on the possibility of free parking for market traders in its car parks.

RESOLVED: that the letter received regarding the parking permits be noted and no further action be taken in response although following the loss of traders' parking at the Grove, other options to support traders continue to be looked at.

23. MARKET TRADERS

The local branch of the National Market Traders' Federation raised the following matters:

1. It would be helpful if the market newsletter issued by the Town Council could be e-mailed to traders. This was supported.
2. The Federation was looking at how best to meet with its members, as participation was difficult at evening meetings. It was suggested that they could host a "drop in" session for members between 2pm and 5pm on one Saturday and the committee room in the Town Hall could be used. This suggestion was supported.
3. Local advertising of the Wednesday market was important and it was suggested that advertising in local publications such as the Marshwood Vale and Diary could be looked at. There was a need to try also to attract coaches to come into town on a Wednesday. The need to continue to support Wednesdays was important, to bring people into town on that day.

RESOLVED: that the items raised be noted with the comments as above.

24. PORTAS REVIEW

Consideration was given to ENCL: 2504.

It was noted that Mary Portas had been invited to come and see Bridport market and the town. It was also felt that the pilot schemes being proposed under the Portas Review were not appropriate for Bridport, as it would probably not meet the criteria.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

25. TOWN HALL

The Town Surveyor reported on the latest position on the Town Hall Heritage and Conservation project.

The update was noted.

26. BRIDPORT CHAMBER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

It was reported that the Chamber had worked with the Town Council on the successful application for funding from West Dorset District Council, to support the development of the new community web site.

The Chamber had also been asked for its view on the relocation of the vintage market on a Sunday. In discussion the Sub Committee noted that the possible options were being looked at by the market organisers, although it was important that any arrangements were in accordance with the Market Charter.

The update was noted.

The meeting closed at 12:15 pm.

The next meeting of the Sub Committee will be on a date to be arranged