

## FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the MARKET AND BUSINESS LIAISON SUB COMMITTEE held at Mountfield, Bridport on Tuesday, 19 February 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Cllr: G.J. Ackerman

Cllrs: Mrs M.J. Ray                      Ms S.J. Williams

Also in attendance: Cllr C.M. Ray (from 10.22) Ray McLaren (Market Superintendent) and Steve Hibbs (Market Traders' Association representative).

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr Mark Dicker, market trader, spoke and asked if it would be possible to look again at Wednesday evening markets during the summer. A trader led working group will invite the Town Surveyor to discuss this in more detail, with a report to the next F&GP Committee on 27 March 2013.

#### **11. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **12. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2012, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **14. MARKET OPERATION**

(a) The Market Superintendent said that he would be happy to answer any questions as they arose during the meeting.

(b) Stall numbers and takings April 2012 to date, ENCL: 2653

The Town Surveyor reported on the figures up until the end of January. Whilst there had been a reduction in takings and attendances on the market, compared to the last two years, the figures for Saturdays were still good.

Traders were thanked for their continued support of the market, although it was recognised that there was still a need to continue to support and promote the Wednesday market.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

- (c) Stalls – registered/casual traders April 2012 to date, ENCL: 2654

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

- (d) The Town Surveyor provided an update on the following matters: -

- Park and Ride
- Market brochure to be updated, including reference to craft fairs
- Christmas Festival draft proposals for 2013
- Saturday music on Bucky Doo Square
- A recent meeting with the newly appointed parking services manager at the District Council, at which trader parking, amongst many other items, was discussed
- Potential provision of electricity for market stalls
- Changes in stall positions in South Street, near the Woodman Inn

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

## 15. **GAS WORKS**

The Town Surveyor reported that the works were on schedule to be completed before Easter.

## 16. **EVENTS 2013**

The Town Surveyor reported that a list of events in the town over the coming year had been put together and was available on the community web site ([www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk](http://www.bridportandwestbay.co.uk)).

## 17. **MARKET CHARGES**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2655.

The Town Surveyor reported that discussions had taken place with the National Market Traders' Federation and he reported the proposed fees for next year. The Town Clerk had been given delegated authority to agree the fees, subject to consultation with the Sub Committee.

RESOLVED: that the proposed charges for 2013/14 be supported:

- (i)
- |                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Registered Trader     | £1.50p per 30 cm. run per day |
| Non registered Trader | £2.50p 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.

## 18. MARKET TRADERS

Steve Hibbs from the local branch of the National Market Traders' Federation raised the following issues, ENCL: 2656:

**Options for South Street:** Market traders and shops in South Street were reported to be virtually unanimously not in favour of a closure.

In response, it was emphasised that no decisions had been made or any proposals brought forward at this stage. The Town Council had agreed that the potential options for South Street and the impact of the recent town centre traffic changes should be discussed firstly with Dorset County Council. A report would then be brought forward for the Council to consider setting out the options, with proposals for full consultation. The report was likely to come forward in the summer with consultation to follow before any recommendations were considered.

**Beaminster Tunnel Re-opening:** – additional advertising for the market in the Yeovil and South Somerset area was suggested, following the re-opening later this year.

**Traders' Meeting:** the Traders' Federation intended to hold a meeting in April, at which all traders would be invited for the first half, after which trader representatives would hold their member meeting. The Town Surveyor would be invited to that member meeting.

**Sitting out Licences:** the Town Surveyor stated that these were monitored, in line with the policy agreed by the Town Council.

**Bad Weather:** the Town Surveyor confirmed that the impact of the exceptional weather and illness was considered in looking at the continued designation of registered traders.

**'A' Boards:** the County Council was looking into this matter.

**Car Parking:** the issue of parking for traders continued to be looked at and was to be discussed further with the District Council.

**Use of Generators:** there had been some concern about the use of generators and options were being looked at by the Town Council.

**Make Markets Matter:** the Federation was to invite the organisation to visit Bridport. The national campaign sought to hold events promoting markets.

RESOLVED: that the issues raised by the National Market Traders' Federation be noted, with the comments above.

## 19. MARKET OF THE YEAR

Consideration was given to the national award winners, ENCL: 2657.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

**20. BRIDPORT CHAMBER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE**

Cllr Ms S.J. Williams was the Town Council's representative and had attended recent meetings to report on Town Council activities. Minutes of all meetings were sent to the Town Council.

The update was noted.

**The meeting closed at 11:38 am.**

**The next meeting of the Market and Business Liaison Sub Committee will be held on a date to be arranged**