

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the BEST VALUE AND SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE of Bridport Town Council held at Mountfield, Bridport on Tuesday 5 December 2017 at 11.00 a.m.

PRESENT Cllr Sandra Brown (Chairman)

Cllrs:	Geoffrey Ackerman	Barry Irvine (until 11.45am)
	Kelvin Clayton	Maggie Ray
	Keith Day	Anne Rickard

Also in attendance: Cllrs Derek Bussell and Sarah Williams.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

24. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Martin Ray and Dave Rickard.

25. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Best Value and Scrutiny Sub Committee held on 5 September 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

27. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Town Clerk reported on the recent visit by Ellis Whittham, which included the annual health and safety audit. An action plan will be produced, but there were no high priority issues and the outcome was generally very good.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

28. GRANTS UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported on a proposed change of use for the grant awarded to the Arts Development Company to work with Oh Crumbs. The Town Council had agreed £500 towards working with Oh Crumbs to assist with work on the new garden, but this was completed before the grant was made. The Company would though like to do some further work with Oh Crumbs to support the service and change the packaging they use, moving away from plastic and to buy alternative reusable packaging. It would then be hoped that Oh Crumbs would promote this more environmentally friendlier packaging to other local food outlets.

The Town Clerk reported that consideration of the grant application from the Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring and Ride Service had been deferred at the last meeting of the Sub Committee, because of the intention to provide a Community Bus in Bridport. As this would not be introduced before April 2018, it was asked if members would now consider making a grant to the Service.

RECOMMEND:

- (1) that the change of use of the grant to the Arts Development Company be agreed as set out above.
- (2) that £500 be paid as a grant to the Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring and Ride Service, subject to confirmation on the usage in Bridport and that it would be possible to drop off people in the centre of town on Bridport shopping visits.

29. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

Consideration was given to the latest report, ENCL: 3263.

The Town Clerk highlighted the comments on Investments and reserves. It was reported that the Town Council would be asked to agree a capital programme for future years and earmark reserves for this purpose. The Investment Strategy was considered as the next item on this agenda.

RESOLVED: that the Internal Audit report for April to August 2017 be noted.

30. INVESTMENTS

The Town Clerk reported the Town Council reserves. It was generally agreed that it was necessary to decide on investments which provide a better rate of return, taking account of the principles of the Investment Strategy which were that “the Town Council will seek the highest rate of return (yield), consistent with the proper levels of security and liquidity”.

RECOMMEND: that the Town Clerk report back on options for investments, to enable the Town Council to take a decision before the end of the current financial year.

31. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

RESOLVED: that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

32. DRAFT ESTIMATES 2018/19

The Town Clerk reported the latest position on the draft budget.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted and the next meeting of the Budget and Service Review Working Group considers the draft budget further on 5 January 2018, to enable recommendations to go forward to the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 17 January 2018 and the full Council on 23 January 2018.

The meeting closed at 12.23pm.

The next meeting of this Sub Committee will be held on 27 February 2018