

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 8 June 2021 at 11.00am.

PRESENT Cllr Sarah Carney (Chairman from item 2)

Cllrs: Barry Irvine Dave Rickard
 Maggie Ray Steve Williams
 Martin Ray

Also present: Paul Fuszard (Finance & Office Manager) and Will Austin (Town Clerk).

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Nominations were sought for Chairman by the Town Clerk and it was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED: that Cllr Sarah Carney be elected as Chairman of the Sub Committee for the ensuing municipal year 2021/2022.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sandra Brown.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Best Value and Scrutiny Sub Committee held on 2 March 2021 were, subject to amendment to clarify that Cllrs Anne Rickard and Dave Rickard attended as sub committee members, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. INTERNAL AUDIT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020/21

The Finance and Office Manager reported that the Internal Auditor's final visit for 2020/21 had taken place on 27 May 2021, [ENCL:3623](#). No issues had been raised and with sub committee approval the report would be recommended to the Finance and General Purposes Committee, along with the annual accounts.

RESOLVED: that the Finance & Office Manager be thanked for his effective stewardship.

RECOMMEND: that the report of the internal auditor be approved.

6. ANNUAL REPORT

Councillors considered the Town Councils draft Annual Report, [ENCL: 3624](#).

The Town Clerk stated that the report would be published by the middle of June 2021.

RESOLVED: that the Annual Report be approved for publication.

7. TOWN COUNCIL FIVE-YEAR PLAN REVIEW

Members discussed the current position of projects and the fluidity of delivery and it was: -

RESOLVED: that an updated version be brought back to the next meeting of this sub committee, with an update on progress against existing projects.

8. GRANTS 2021/22 AND SLA REVIEWS

The Town Clerk reported that it was proposed to publicise the opening of the annual community grants scheme later in June. The West Bay Car Boot Sale grants scheme would be opened for applications in November and both of these would ask that consideration be given, though not exclusively, to projects that consider Climate Change, the Rights Respecting agenda and CoVid-19 recovery.

Discussions would take place in August with the SLA bodies, regarding their current Service Level Agreements and reported to the sub committee in September 2021.

RESOLVED: that the arrangements for the 2021/22 grants schemes be noted.

RESOLVED: that the guidance be amended for 2021/22 to advise that applications that address climate change, the Rights Respecting agenda and CoVid-19 recovery are particularly welcomed.

9. INSURANCE RENEWAL

The Town Clerk reported that a review will take place with the Town Council's insurers, prior to the renewal date of 1 September 2021.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

10. STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Town Clerk reported these both need to be revised, in line with a new version provided by NALC.

RESOLVED: that a working group be convened to consider both matters, to be chaired by Cllr Sarah Carney, with all members invited.

11. BRIDPORT COMMUNITIES TRUST

The Town Clerk reported that a formal trust agreement was now in place and that the creation of a management committee, comprising a majority of non councillors, would be on the June 2021 Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting agenda.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

12. LOCAL AUTHORITY REMOTE MEETINGS

Consideration was given to a government consultation, [ENCL: 3625](#).

The Town Clerk reported that following the expiry of the legislation allowing councils to meet virtually, the Government had launched a call for evidence, so that the provisions could be considered further.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk, in conjunction with the Sub Committee Chairman, will draft a response for submission and that individual responses should also be encouraged.

13. FUTURE REPORTS

No items were raised.

14. 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.

15. REPRESENTATION ON AN EXTERNAL BODY

The Chairman provided an update, and following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that the matter be considered in private session at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 14 June 2021.

The meeting closed at **12.51pm**

The next meeting of this Sub Committee will be held on 7 September 2021 at the earlier time of 10.00am. This meeting will recommend community grant awards and will be followed by a sub committee business agenda.