

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the BEST VALUE AND SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE held at Mountfield on Tuesday 6 December 2022 at 11.00am.

PRESENT Cllr Sarah Carney

Cllrs: Geoffrey Ackerman Anne Rickard
 Maggie Ray Steve Williams
 Martin Ray

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

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers in the Public Forum.

17. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Sandra Brown and Dave Rickard.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

19. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Best Value and Scrutiny Sub Committee held on 6 September 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the inclusion of a declaration of interest by Cllr Sarah Carney in respect of Bridport Food Matters, that had been omitted from the draft minutes.

20. WEST BAY CAR BOOT SALE GRANTS SCHEME

The Town Clerk reported that five town councillors and one Dorset councillor were to be appointed to the panel, which would make recommendations to the Finance and General Purposes Committee in March 2023.

RESOLVED: that the West Bay Car Boot Sale Grants Scheme Panel comprises Cllrs Sarah Carney, Maggie Ray, Martin Ray, Anne Rickard and Steve Williams, with Dave Rickard ex officio, and two Dorset Council members, one of whom should be Cllr Sarah Williams.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should seek one additional nomination from the Dorset Council ward members for the Bridport Local Area Partnership area, excepting the Bridport ward.

21. AUDIT MATTERS

The Town Clerk reported on the following:

- (i) Confirmation of the appointment of the Council's external auditor for the period 2022-23 to 2026-27, ENCL: 3771. The report advised that the appointed auditor for the period would be BDO LLP;
- (ii) Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2021-22, reported to Full Council on 6 October 2022, ENCL: 3755. The report noted that the external auditor had for the 26th consecutive year identified no major or minor issues;
- (iii) Interim internal audit report, reported to Finance & General Purposes Committee on 14 November 2022, ENCL: 3760. This confirmed that the auditors had carried out testing and found the Council's procedures to be satisfactory.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that the reports of the Town Clerk be noted.

22. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no items to report.

23. 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.

24. DRAFT ESTIMATES 2023/24

The Town Clerk reported the latest position on the draft budget, ENCL: 3770. Members considered the Clerk's report and made a number of suggested amendments to guide the draft and noted that confirmation of receipt of the tax base for 2023/24 would be welcomed, to help inform that process.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted, and recommendations go forward to the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 16 January 2023 and the full Council on 24 January 2023, incorporating tax base and any further known changes.

The meeting closed at 12.03pm.

The next meeting of this Sub Committee will be held on 7 March 2023