

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 6 June 2023 at 11.00am.

PRESENT Cllr Dave Rickard (Leader ex officio and Chairman from item 2)

Cllrs: Sandra Brown Anne Rickard
 Steve Williams

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 2023/2024.

RESOLVED: that in the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Dave Rickard be elected to chair this meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Geoffrey Ackerman, Sarah Carney, Maggie Ray and Martin Ray.

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 7 March 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. INTERNAL AUDIT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2022/23

The Town Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor's final visit for 2022/23 had taken place on 23 May 2023. 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 and 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: 3811.

The Town Clerk stated that the report would be published by the middle of June 2023.

RESOLVED: that the Annual Report be approved for publication.

7. STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3812.

RECOMMEND: that the updated documents be approved.

8. WEST BAY CAR BOOT SALE

Consideration was given to an application from Bridport Community Orchard, ENCL: 3813.

RESOLVED: that the Bridport Community Orchard's request be granted and that £300 be awarded.

9. GRANTS 2023/24 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 2023 and both would ask that consideration be given, though not exclusively, to projects that consider Climate Change, Rights Respecting, community resilience and social inclusion.

Discussions would begin in July 2023 with the SLA bodies, regarding their current Service Level Agreements, and reported to the sub-committee in September 2023.

RESOLVED: that the arrangements for the 2023/24 grants schemes be noted.

10. INSURANCE RENEWAL

The Town Clerk reported that a one-year extension was appropriate, rather than entering into a new five-year agreement, pending the Community Governance Review.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

11. FUTURE REPORTS

The Town Clerk advised that Service Level Agreements, and the Council Constitution from April 2024, would be tabled for consideration.

The meeting closed at **11:54pm**

The next meeting of this Sub Committee will be held on 5 September 2023 at the earlier time of 10.00am. This meeting will recommend community grant awards and may be followed by a sub-committee business agenda.