

## 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 4 June 2024 at 11.00am.

PRESENT Cllr Sarah Carney (Chairman from item 2)

Cllrs:	Ian Bark	Paddy Mooney
	Jonathan Bourbon	Anne Rickard
	Andrew Holdridge	Dave Rickard

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 2024/2025.

Cllr Carney introduced the remit of the sub-committee for the benefit of newly elected members.

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

### **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Anna Killick, Ann Langridge and Steve Williams.

### **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 5 March 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Members discussed minute 30 (West Bay Car Boot Sale Grants Panel) insofar as it related to funding for Bridport Youth & Community Centre Trust. Following discussion of the financial position of the Trust, the Town Clerk agreed that this matter would be tabled for the next meeting, and ensuing meetings.

Members also discussed minute 32 (Investment Review 2023/24 and Strategy 2024/25), and the Town Clerk agreed to table this for discussion at the next meeting.

**5. INTERNAL AUDIT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2023/24**

The Finance & Office Manager reported that the Internal Auditor's final visit for 2023/24 had taken place on 20 May 2024, ENCL: 3904. 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 ENCL: 3905.

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

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

Members discussed the draft annual accounts, with a particular focus on the costs of the Tourist Information Centre.

RECOMMENDED: that the annual accounts for 2023-24 be approved.

**6. ANNUAL REPORT**

Councillors considered the Town Councils draft Annual Report, ENCL: 3906.

The Town Clerk stated that the report would be published by the middle of June 2024.

RESOLVED: that, subject to minor typographical amendments, the Annual Report be approved for publication.

**7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

Consideration was given to the notes of the Community Engagement Task and Finish Group, and the future membership of the group.

RECOMMENDED: that Cllrs Ian Bark, Sarah Carney, and Paddy Mooney be elected to the Community Engagement Working Group, and that all other members be invited to express an interest in membership, taking account of a preference for a balance of newly elected and re-elected members, and that the final membership be agreed by Finance & General Purposes Committee.

**8. GRANTS 2024/25 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 2024. Members were asked to consider any funding priorities in relation to the community grants scheme.

Discussions would begin in August 2024 with the SLA bodies, regarding their Service Level Agreements, and reported to the sub-committee in September 2024.

RESOLVED: that the arrangements for the 2024/25 grants schemes be noted.

RESOLVED: that the priorities for the community grants scheme in 2024 be youth, inclusivity, and culture and the arts.

**9. INSURANCE RENEWAL**

The Town Clerk reported that our current insurers had extended the cover of the dissolved parishes until renewal and that a new five-year agreement was required from September 2024, which required a competitive process.

RESOLVED: that the update be noted.

**10. FUTURE REPORTS**

The Town Clerk reminded members that following earlier discussions, the Bridport Youth & Community Centre Trust and Ethical Investments would be considered at the next meeting, and if requested by the Chairman, the Tourist Information Centre.

The meeting closed at **12:49pm**

**The next meeting of this Sub Committee will be held on 3 September 2024 at the earlier time of 10.00am. This meeting will recommend community grant awards and may be followed by a sub-committee business agenda.**