

## 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 2 June 2026 at 11.00am.

PRESENT Cllr Sarah Carney (Chairman from item 2)

Cllrs:	Jonathan Bourbon	Anne Rickard
	Ann Langridge	Dave Rickard
	Paddy Mooney	Steve Williams

Also in attendance: Sally Freemantle (Town Clerk) and Lisa Pinch (Finance & Office Manager).

### PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

#### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED: that Cllr Sarah Carney be elected Chair of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year 2026/2027.

#### 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies of absence were received from Cllrs Anna Killick and Nigel Rawlings.

#### 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 3 March 2026 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 5. ANNUAL ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Consideration was given to the analysis of year-end income and expenditure, ENCL: 4129.

The Finance & Office Manager summarised the report and identified particular areas of overspend including IT costs which could be attributed partly to an essential touch screen repair, installation of internet access at Plottingham and costs involved in setting up new staff. Further analysis of areas of overspend would take place and the results would help to inform the forthcoming budget setting process for the next financial year.

It was acknowledged that this year had been particularly difficult as the Finance & Office Manager had been running two accounting systems to enable the transfer to Rialtas. Now that Rialtas is in place and fully populated with the 2025-26 records, Rialtas will be used for the new 2026-27 financial year.

Councillors praised the team for staying close to budget and thanked the Finance & Officer Manager for her dedication and hard work over the year. The Finance & Office Manager was also thanked for managing and enabling the transfer to the new accounting system at the same time as ensuring the budget stayed on track with a resulting 1% underspend.

RESOLVED: (1) that the Annual Account Summary report be noted; and (2) that the Finance & Office Manager be thanked for her work throughout the year.

RECOMMENDED: that the Annual Accounts 2026-27 be approved.

## **6. INSURANCE RENEWAL**

The Town Clerk reported that officers were preparing for the second annual renewal of a three-year insurance agreement with Zurich Municipal Insurance on 1 September 2026. An update on the sum insured and expected minor revisions will be discussed with Zurich. It was requested that the Ethical Decision-Making Matrix is used for contractual and financial decision making.

As the renewal date for the insurance was prior to the next scheduled meeting of the sub-committee, members were asked to agree that the arrangements be made under delegation, as had happened in previous years.

RESOLVED: that the insurance renewal process be noted, and that the agreement with Zurich Municipal Insurance be agreed under delegation to the Finance & Office Manager and the Town Clerk.

## **7. COMMUNICATION**

There were no items for communication however the Town Clerk explained that the Best Value & Scrutiny Committee could recommend to the Finance & General Purposed Committee the grant priorities for the forthcoming year. Following discussion, it was therefore

RECOMMENDED: that the funding priorities for the forthcoming grant application process be:

- Mental Health support for young people
- Youth and young people
- Mental Health support

The meeting closed at 11.41am.

**The next meeting of this Sub-Committee is scheduled to be held 8 September 2026**