

Minutes of the Town Projects Committee meeting held on Monday 20th October 2014 at 6pm in the Old Courthouse, Jaycroft Road, Burnham-on-Sea.

Present: Cllr Clarke (Chairman), Cllr Hancock, Cllr Jones OBE, Cllr Cox (ex-officio),
Cllr Miss Parkin, Cllr Young
Mrs D Emery – Town Clerk, Mrs L Williams – Deputy Town Clerk

51/14/TPC Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Cllr Nicholls (work), Cllr Mrs Burge (unwell), Cllr Ms Lawson (prior engagement)
Cllr Miss Parkin declared an interest in the Firework Display

52/14/TPC Possible re-siting the Farmers Market to 'off the' High St

The Chairman invited Stephanie Keeble – the Farmers Market organiser to the table.

- On what authority does the Council have to move the market?
- Why is the Farmers Market being considered in isolation?
- The road closures for 6 months have just gone through full council at the beginning of October with no objections
- The market has been in its current position since 2008 prior to that the market did try several other locations e.g. swimming pool car park, but these positions were not very successful
- The High St. position is critical to the success of the Farmer Market
- There have been no complaints over the 6 years of being in the High St.
- Current position in the High St. offers protection from the wind as the canopies can't take too much wind
- Good disabled access in the High St.
- 4 letters of support including a letter from Ian Jefferies of BiAR's, also verbal support from numerous shops in the Road Closure area
- It is a community event, of the customers at least two thirds are repeat residents. A stall is provided free of charge which has been used by Children's Hospice S.W, Police, Foodfest
- Burnham Farmers Market lost money and was subsidised by other markets in order to give their traders an opportunity to sell at Burnham, it was made clear to members without the footfall and visibility they enjoyed in the High Street the Farmers Market would find it difficult to justify continuing in Burnham.

The Clerk informed members it was SDC that invited the Farmers Market into our town and the road closure agreements and negotiations are with Highways. The Town Council have no powers to move the Market.

Cllr Jones was all for keeping the Farmers Market, but not in the High St. He suggested moving it to the junction of Adam St. and the High St. going north into Adam St. 2 stalls could then be on the corner, outside the amusements & the shoe shop, this would mean that the High St. does not have to have a road closure in place. This would also mean that the market would save money.

There was concern over this suggestion as there would not be enough room for the canopies, also the wind coming down from the seafront would cause a problem. Stephanie deferred to her market manager, who dealt with the daily

setting up and health & safety issues. In his opinion this configuration would not work.

Victoria Street was also suggested along with Lynton Road Car Park, if agreement could be arranged with SDC.

The Chairman reminded members that the suggestion to move the market was contrary to the agreed Events Area in the High St.

Cllr Young added that the events area was being added to the High Street specifically to add activities in the town, so why would the Town Council wish to remove the Farmers Market whose canopies attract people into the High Street

Cllr Clarke PROPOSED to leave the Farmers Market where it was for now as any changes could not be made until after April 2015, then to arrange a site visit with the stall holders, Highways and Councillors to ascertain the area Cllr Jones is referring to.

Cllr Jones PROPOSED an amendment that a site visit should happen within the next two months

Cllr Clarke PROPOSED a 2nd amendment that a site visit should take place at the Farmers Market in February 2015 and was unanimously AGREED

Recommendation

For councillors to attend a site visit on Farmers Market day 27th February 2015 to clarify the suggested area just off the High St. into Adam St. and discuss Health & Safety issues with Highways if the Market was moved

Action

Members asked the Clerk to invite the stall holders and County Highways to a site meeting on 27th February 2015 and arrange a meeting indoors directly afterwards to further discuss matters.

53/14/TPC Update on the Tesco 106 Project

The Clerk gave a verbal update on the progress of the Street Furniture and Electric Box:

- The Street Furniture and Electricity Box have been ordered
- Work on the Electricity Box will start on 19th Nov with work to prepare for it on 12 Nov
- The seat, flower box and cycle racks will be removed
- The Clerk suggested that this committee will need to think about a policy for the use of the electricity and whether or not generators should still be used once there is an electricity supply in the events area. This will be for the new TC manager to draw up.

The Town Centre Managers post

- Beverley Milner Simonds to start employment on Monday 27th October
- Office painted, desk ready to put in after the carpet laid

Accounts

- The new No 2 account has been opened and all expenditure for the Tesco Project and Income will go through this account and Cash Book 7
- Street Lighting Budget was £100k, £86k spent on columns, leaving enough funding to install the additional banner columns and overspend on electricity box (see below)

Project Manager on budget

- Street Furniture : overspend due to £8-9K on Electricity box
- With the committed £36k for street furniture ordered and £11,738 spent by SDC for bins seating this totals £47,738

- £605 for the Notice board in Pier Street has been taken from the Public Notice Board budget which was £5k

- The remaining £606 for trialling the lights has come from the £20k contingency fund.

54/14/TPC Available funds in RLT2 and RLT3 contributions from developers for Burnham & Highbridge and the Coastal Cluster

The Clerk informed members that:-

RLT2 has £34,701

RLT3 has £93,784

The Clerk asked members that if they hear of any possible developments or schemes from organisations to be mindful of these available funds.

55/14/TPC Fireworks Display for 2014

The Clerk gave a verbal update:

- display_to start at 6.30pm
- There was a Mayor's reception at the Old Courthouse between 4.30 – 5.30pm for the Dutch band
- The Dutch band will be playing on the Seafront from 5.45pm to the countdown
- Letters had been sent out asking for sponsorship
- 4 donations had been received so far

56/14/TPC Members NOTED the next meeting of this committee was to be held on Monday 24th November 2014 at **6pm** at The Old Courthouse, Jaycroft Rd.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm