

SEATON TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

11th December 2007

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs Semple (Chairman)
Cllrs P Burrows, Mrs P Collins, L Garner, G Jones, J Meakin, R
Palacio, J Roebuck, C Wise

APOLOGIES: Cllrs J Knight (at EDDC), M Greenyer (work commitment), S
O'Connell (at youth event)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr J Seward (TIC Advisory Committee)
Mrs K Chipperfield (TIC Manager)
Mrs J Richens, Mrs C Spicer, Mrs T Potter, Mrs A Newton (TIC
staff)

463/07 **APOLOGIES**
Apologies were noted and approved.

464/07 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations of interest

465/07 **TO AGREE POLICY ON WHETHER SEATON TIC IS A SERVICE, A
BUSINESS OR A COMBINATION**

Mrs Richens and Mrs Chipperfield gave a presentation on the work of the council, inviting members to consider each activity and whether they thought it a service, a business or a combination. Members had been given a number of handouts detailing the background to the TIC, its function, opening times and financial information.

Mrs Chipperfield referred to the role of the TIC Advisory Committee which had been set up to support her, make recommendations and report back to the Council. She said that Tracey Guiry, the new Project Development Manager for the Seaton and Exmouth Visitor Centres, had met with her. She said Ms Guiry considered the TIC an important facility in the town and was willing to serve on the Advisory Committee.

Mrs Chipperfield then referred to the recommendations put forward to the council from the TIC Advisory Committee, and their agreement to approach the councils of Axmouth, Beer and Colyton as well as businesses to financially support the TIC, and to provide professional support for updating the TIC website

Considerable time was spent on looking at the role and work of the TIC. It was noted that all activities fell into both service and business categories, but that much of the business included an element of service which was reflected in the charges. Whilst the majority of visitors to the TIC in the summer months were tourists, in the winter months this reversed and it was a facility mostly used by residents.

Questions were invited at the end of the presentation. Some of these related to a request for further financial detail which Mrs Chipperfield advised was available at the TIC for those who wished to see it.

It was Resolved by 4 votes in favour and 5 abstentions (Cllrs Collins, Garner, Jones, Meakin and Semple) to agree that the role of the TIC was that of a business but that it also provided a service to the town and visitors, and was therefore a combination.

466/07 TO AGREE COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION TO TIC BUDGET FOR 2008/9

It was noted that the TIC required approximately £15,000 to continue to operate at the current level. The Clerk reminded Members that they had agreed to finance the updating of the TIC website, and this could be met from the council's current year's budget.

It was unanimously Resolved to spend up to £2,000 from the council's current budget to update the TIC website in readiness for the beginning of next season.

It was then proposed to meet the projected shortfall in the TIC's 2008/9 budget of £15,000. Members voted by 3 votes in favour, 3 against and 3 abstentions. The chairman was invited to make a casting vote and voted against the proposal.

A further proposal was put forward to consider a decreasing figure until an amount was reached that was acceptable to the majority. There was no seconder for this proposal.

It was then proposed that a contribution be agreed for two years in accordance with a business plan.

It was Resolved by 6 votes in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions (Cllrs Wise and Jones) that the council would meet a shortfall of £14,000 for 2008/9 and £10,000 for 2009/10, with a business plan to be drawn up by the Advisory Committee which would include accountancy assistance if required. The Clerk

advised that this could be provided by the council's internal auditor. In addition, it was agreed that any underspend in the year 2008/9 would be placed in an ear marked reserve for the following year, with a service level agreement to be drawn up between the parties.

These Minutes confirmed this day of2007

Presiding Chairman