



BIDEFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Market Management Committee

held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall on,

Thursday 16 January 2025 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT:	North Ward:	Councillor K Hind
	East Ward:	Councillor Mrs J Gubb Councillor Mrs L Hellyer Councillor J McKenzie (substitute for Councillor D Bushby)
	South Ward	Councillor Ms R Clarke (Chairman)
	West Ward	Councillor C Hawkins
	Market Complex	Mrs K Austin

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr R Coombes (Deputy Town Clerk)
1 x Member of the Public

74. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members noted the Apologies received and reasons for absence from:

Councillor	D	Bushby
Councillor	J	Hellyer

75. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND ANY REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest.

76. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION OF 15 MINUTES DURATION**

None.

77. **MINUTES**

Proposed by Councillor Hind and seconded by Councillor McKenzie, the Minutes of the

Meeting held on 5 December 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Vote – For: 2, Abstention: 4, Against: 0)

78. **ACCOUNTS**

Item deferred.

79. **CHAIRMAN’S / MARKET ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

The Clerk advised that the Council had paid for pest control in the Market Hall. Following advice from Councillor Simon Inch, the Rangers will investigate a self-help scenario that could lead to potential savings of £2,000 a year. They will continue to investigate efficiency savings.

80. **MARKET HALL**

a. Focus Group Notes.

Councillor Hind indicated that the first Meeting had been very positive.

Members reflected on the success of the Frost Fair, in terms of drawing footfall, noting that Butcher’s Row tenants had almost without exception enjoyed a very profitable day’s trading.

The Chairman and Councillor Mrs Hellyer reasserted the need for future tenants to have a less niche appeal but providing an offer that will encourage regular repeat visitors.

b. Strategic Plan .

Councillor Hind explained, the subject heading “Outcomes – Immediate. Market Strategy,” from the Focus Group Notes.

Whilst the Committee had resolved against engaging further with Real Ideas, there remained the unspent Feasibility Study budgeted monies, of £4,000.00 to be used by the end of the financial year.

Discussion centred on the importance of having a five to ten year strategic plan. It would support future funding application as well as provide clear direction for the Market Complex whilst identifying the resources required to maximise its potential.

Proposed by Councillor Hind, seconded by Councillor Mrs Hellyer and

RESOLVED: To engage Ms Abi Jackson to deliver upon her Marketing Strategy for the Bideford Market Complex.

(Vote – For: 6, Against: 0)

81. **TENANT / TRADER REPRESENTATIVE**

Mrs Austin indicated that in the current out of season climate some tenants suggested the Council should advertise more and provide further signage.

The Clerk advised that the hardware is in place for the “pipped music,” which he will seek to activate week commencing 20 January 2025.

The network provider is changing mid-February, that will see the loss of Wi-Fi provision for two days. He advised the Tenants, accordingly.

82. **PART II (CLOSED SESSION)**

The Chairman thanked the Market Tenant for her attendance and contributions.

Proposed by Councillor Ms Clarke, seconded and

RESOLVED: To exclude members of the public and the press to progress matters of a confidential nature under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act) 1960 and Local Government Act 1972, ss 100 and 102.

(Vote – For: 6, Against: 0)

83. **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

There was no report.

84. **TENANT / TRADER**

a. Terminations / Applications. An application had recently been submitted that the Chairman and Town Clerk, supported by the Deputy Chairman indicated did not fulfil the points raised in Minute 80.a.

Councillor Hind indicated that a further enquiry regarding storage with the potential for workshop opportunities did not fit; Councillor Hawkins indicated, though that he would seek further information.

The Clerk advised that he had received a request to view a Unit and that a recent report by the Council had encouraged additional interest (in Market / Butcher’s Row Shop units).

b. Tenant matters.

None were raised.

The business of the meeting having been completed, the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7.10 pm.

Signature of Town Mayor: Date:

Signature of Chairman: Date: