

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH MAY 2011 AT THE HEIGHTS HOTEL, PORTLAND

PRESENT:- Mr D. Thurston (Town Mayor), Councillors L. Ames, Mrs S. Bradley, Mrs J. Collinge, R. Hughes, Miss A. Munro, T. Munro, Mrs E. Munro-Price, I. Munro-Price, D. Symes, Mrs S. West, R. Wild and T. Woodcock.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk) and Reverend Chris Briggs (Mayor's Chaplain), together with invited guests and members of the public.

1Y – PRAYERS

Rev. Chris Briggs led the meeting in prayer.

2Y – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from a number of invited guests who were unable to attend.

3Y – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

4Y – MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, 15th MAY 2010

The minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

5Y – TOWN MAYOR'S ADDRESS

The retiring Town Mayor, Mr David Thurston, addressed the Town Council and wider audience. He said he had enjoyed his mayoral year immensely, attending many functions. He offered his thanks to fellow-Mayors in the county, but especially to Paul Kimber, Mayor of Weymouth and his Mayoress, Helen, with whom he had been able to maintain a united front in civic events. Here Mr Thurston paid tribute to his own Mayoress, his wife Lizzy.

They had been inspired by the example of many individuals on the Island, working unpaid for various organisations. He called them "wonderful people."

Mr Thurston went on to discuss particular highlights of the year. The Ceremony of the Keys at Portland Castle and subsequent reception at The Boat that Rocks had shown off Portland at its best. He was grateful to members of the local fire brigade who had attended in a working capacity.

Despite initial reservations on the part of some members, the introduction of a Town Crier had made considerable impact. Mr Stuart Cave looked the part as Crier and had represented the Island admirably. Mrs Cave too deserved credit for producing his uniform.

The Town Council had registered the Portland flag and he (Mr Thurston) had been moved to see a replica being flown by HMS Portland on her recent visit. The exercising of its crew's right to march through the Island, led by the local Sea Cadet band had been a wonderful, moving experience.

Anti-social behaviour had reared its head on the Island, but local people had stood up and called a meeting with the police, which had led to better policing on the Island.

A slight personal disappointment had been that the proposal to introduce a town lengthsman had failed, but he hoped the Council would revisit the idea.

Mr Thurston also thanked those who had supported his Mayor's Charities. £2,500 had been raised and passed on to the two charities concerned. He also thanked individuals associated with the Council for their help and advice. He felt he was leaving the Council in good shape, financially sound and ready for the build-up to 2012. He closed by offering his best wishes to Councillor Ian Munro-Price and the other councillors.

6Y – PRESENTATION

Mr Thurston presented Mr Tanzy Lee with a plaque and bottle of rum as a token of thanks for his raising of the Union Flag on national flag days at the Council Offices over the space of twenty-five years.

7Y – ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

Mr Thurston called for nominations for the Town Mayor in the municipal year 2011/12. Cllr. Woodcock proposed Cllr. Ian Munro-Price, seconded by Cllr. Ames. There being no other nominations, it was **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Ian Munro-Price be elected Town Mayor of Portland, to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

Cllr. Munro-Price made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office and was invested with the Chain of Office by the outgoing Mayor, Mr Thurston. Cllr. Munro-Price then took the Chair.

8Y – NEW TOWN MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price offered his thanks to all the guests for attending. He felt "proud and privileged" to assume the office of Mayor and hoped he could do justice to the position.

He recognised the hard work put in by David and Lizzy Thurston over the past year. He presented Mr Thurston with a bouquet of flowers to pass on to Lizzy, who was not present at the gathering.

Cllr. Munro-Price said his research on Google had shown him that town mayors were the figurehead and public persona of the councils.

He referred to Portland's history, a "heritage set in stone," and looked forward to approaching events of 2012 as an unparalleled opportunity to promote Portland, which would be part of his task as Town Mayor.

Finally Cllr. Munro-Price announced that his Mayor's charities would be Easton Community Group and Osprey Leisure Centre. The chaplaincy would be shared by Rev. Chris Briggs and the other Portland ministers.

9Y – ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price called for nominations for the post of Deputy Town Mayor in the municipal year 2011/12. Cllr. West proposed Cllr. Sylvia Bradley, seconded by Cllr. Collinge. There being no other nominations, it was **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Sylvia Bradley be elected Deputy Mayor of Portland, to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

Cllr. Bradley made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office and was invested with the Badge of Office by the Town Mayor.

10Y – FINANCIAL MATTERS

Cllr. Woodcock proposed, seconded by Cllr. Hughes and it was **RESOLVED** – that Cllrs. Ian Munro-Price and Bradley become authorised signatories for the Council bank accounts.

11Y – TOWN MAYOR’S INVITATION

The Town Mayor invited all the guests present to join him for a glass of wine and share in the buffet prepared on the Town Council’s behalf.

12Y – ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded and duly **RESOLVED** – that the Town Council’s meeting be adjourned, to reconvene on Wednesday, 25th May 2011 at the Council Offices to transact the remainder of the Council’s business.

The meeting ended at 7.30 pm.

Signed Dated
(Town Mayor)