

## **PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011 AT EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL, PORTLAND**

**PRESENT:** Councillors D. Thurston (Town Mayor), Mrs S. Bradley, Mrs J. Collinge, R. Hughes and Mrs S. West. There were two members of the general public also present.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk) and Reverend C. Briggs (Mayor's Chaplain).

#### **11/1 – PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

#### **11/2 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr. R. Denton-White and Mr James Wild.

#### **11/3 – MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010**

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

#### **11/4 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were none.

#### **11/5 – TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

Cllr. David Thurston opened by saying he had enjoyed his year as Mayor immensely. He had attend many functions and done his best to represent Portland. During the year he had been continually inspired by the number of local people on the Island who do some form of voluntary work, often with little thanks.

He went on to review the successes of the Council in the year. The Ceremony of the Keys at Portland Castle, followed by refreshments at The Boat That Rocks had elicited many letters of appreciation.

The Council had instituted a Town Crier in the person of Stuart Cave. Cllr. Thurston commended the sterling work by Mr Cave's wife in making the Crier's uniform. Mr Cave had been a resounding success in the role of Crier, a credit to the Island and a great asset for 2012.

The Council had also registered the Portland flag with the Flag Institute and it had been a very touching moment to see HMS Portland leaving port while flying the Portland flag.

Cllr. Thurston also referred to the Freedom march through the Island by HMS Portland's officers and crew. Many of the crew had visited local pubs afterwards and the locals had much appreciated seeing sailors in uniform on the Island again.

The Council was in good shape and financially sound. Grants had again been made this year to local charities and the annual garden and Christmas lights competition had been held again as usual, with thanks to the Councillors particularly involved.

The increase in anti-social behaviour on the Island had produced a heartening reaction. Local people had stood up, arranged a meeting with the police and put forward their views. This had led to a massive increase in the police presence on the Island and now there was much less trouble.

Certain contentious issues had arisen, not least surrounding the Tesco store and the accompanying traffic measures. It now appeared that many of the previous fears were unfounded and there had been little negative feedback.

There were two significant disappointments in the year. Threats to close the Island's two libraries had emerged and certain members of the Council were working hard to prevent this, to whom Cllr. Thurston expressed his thanks.

The other disappointment to him had been the failure of the lengthsman scheme to get underway. A lot of hard work had been spent trying to achieve this, but happily the money promised by the County Council was still available and he hoped the Council would rethink its position.

As was known, Cllr. Thurston said he would shortly be standing down from the Town Council. He offered his best wishes to the Councillors and said he would watch its progress with interest.

#### **11/6 – FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2010/11**

The Clerk presented the financial report. It was accepted without comment and the Clerk was thanked for his work on it.

#### **11/7 – ELECTORS' ITEMS**

Cllr. West expressed her appreciation for various individuals involved in the business of the Council and stated how important she thought it was for the Island to maintain its own council.

Cllr. Collinge prompted the Clerk to place an advertisement for the annual gardening competition in the June issue of the Free Portland News.

#### **11/8 – DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING**

The next Annual Town Meeting is due to take place on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012.

The meeting ended at 7.20pm.

Signed ..... Dated .....  
(Town Mayor)