

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2011 COMMENCING AT 7PM

PRESENT: Councillors D. Thurston (Chair), L. Ames, Mrs S. Bradley, N. Charlton, Mrs J. Collinge, M. Gosling, R. Hughes, T. Munro, Elspie Munro-Price, Ian Munro-Price, R. Paisley and Mrs S. West.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. Chris Briggs (Mayor's Chaplain) and Melanie Earnshaw (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council)

1849 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

1850 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor R. Denton-White.

1851 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

1852 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair explained why he had called the meeting. He referred to the last Town Council meeting when there had been a dispute about the status of inquorate meetings and the alleged pre-determination of members attending them. Further consultation had shown that the interpretation offered by the Clerk had been correct.

In addition four members had requested a further debate on the Council's budget and precept for 2011/12 by written notice in compliance with Standing Order 36(a). Because agendas items 4 and 5 had not been so requested, the Chair deleted them from the meeting agenda.

The special resolution to debate agenda 36(a) was **APPROVED** on the casting vote of the Chair.

1853 – COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT, 2011/12

Cllr. Munro queried the provision of three sets of draft budget figures. The Clerk explained that these represented the stages the budget had gone through as it was debated by the Council. In view of the various doubts that had been expressed about the validity of the previous two meetings when the budget and precept were debated it was being left to members to choose which, if any, set of draft figures they wanted to use as a basis for discussion.

RESOLVED – that the Council use the draft figures agreed at the last Town Council meeting.

After further discussion it was **RESOLVED** – (1) that the salaries budget be reduced from £24,000 to £22,850, (2) that the projects budget be increased from £2,000 to £3,140 and that the precept for 2011/12 remain unchanged from the previous meeting at £33,616, nil increase on the 2010/11 precept figure.

1854 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair confirmed that the next scheduled meeting of the Council would take place on Wednesday, 16th March 2011 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 7.30pm.

Signed..... Dated.....
(Chair)