

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2013

The meeting started at 6.45pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs S. Bradley (Chair), L. Ames, Mrs R. Barton, Mrs J. Collinge, R. Denton-White, R. Hughes, Miss A. Munro, T. Munro, Mrs E. Munro-Price, I. Munro-Price, R. Nowak and R. Wild.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk)

2325 – PRAYERS

The Mayor led the meeting in prayer.

2326 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. Mrs S. West and Rev. Tim Gomm (Mayor's Chaplain)

2327 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

2328 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

Cllr. Tim Munro proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that Agenda Item 4 – Portland Fair be taken after Item 5.

2329 – EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – that pursuant to the provisions of Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for Item 12 – Portland Fair, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

2330 – PORTLAND FAIR

Cllr. Nowak reported that the operators had offered a certain figure for the annual Fair contract at their meeting with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and when he had attempted to negotiate a higher figure the operators had stuck to their figure. However the previous day Mrs Wynn had rung him and said they were now prepared to offer a higher sum. This was to operate the Fair for at least three years, preferably five.

Cllr. Denton-White proposed, seconded by Cllr. Hughes, that the new offer be accepted.

Cllr. Tim Munro expressed concern that the meeting had not been called off when the second offer had been received, since it met the requirement of the Council agreed at its last meeting. He also said that this was a binding decision, which according to Standing Orders should not be reviewed for at least six months. Some

members took issue with this latter statement, arguing it was part a continuing negotiation process.

Cllr. Tim Munro criticised the delegation process of renegotiating the Fair contract after the Council meeting on 20th February. He had assumed the Mayor and Deputy Mayor would do this rather than the Clerk. The Clerk then asked Cllr. Nowak to negotiate without seeking the Mayor's permission, leaving Cllr. Nowak to take the blame if anything went wrong.

The Clerk attempted to offer an explanation, but was interrupted. When he resumed he said he had asked Cllr. Nowak whether he was willing to negotiate in view of the Councillor's previous experience on behalf of other councils. Cllr. Nowak had told him he was willing, whereupon he rang the Mayor to obtain her agreement, which she had given.

The debate continued among the members in an increasingly heated manner, such that eventually the Mayor announced she was closing the meeting. Cllr. Barton pointed out that there was a motion outstanding which had not been put to the vote. The Mayor therefore called for a vote. By this time several members were standing and some had left their seats. A number of them voted in favour of the motion, none were observed to have voted against. There was no call for abstentions.

RESOLVED – that the Council accept the operators' offer of a combined contract price of £3,750 to hold Fairs in the spring and autumn for the next three years, the price to remain fixed for that period and a new contract to be drawn up to confirm this.

2331 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 20th March 2013, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 7.15 pm.

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