

## **PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2012, COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillors I. Munro-Price (Chair), L. Ames, Mrs S. Bradley, Mrs J. Collinge, R. Denton-White, Mrs P. McCartney, Miss A. Munro, D. Symes, Mrs S. West and R. Wild.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk) and one member of the public.

#### **2036 – PRAYERS**

The Chair led the meeting in prayer. There was then a minute's silence in respect of Mrs Nesta Hunt, Town Mayor 1994/1995, who has died recently.

#### **2037 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors R. Hughes, T. Munro, Mrs E. Munro-Price and T. Woodcock.

#### **2038 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest at this stage.

#### **2039 – OPEN FORUM**

##### **a) Public Half-Hour**

Mr Tanner asked whether there were any plans to revive the Youth Council. Cllr. Symes replied that it was hoped to do so shortly. Meanwhile he was in discussions with people able to give help and advice.

##### **b) Police Question Time**

The Clerk explained the item had not been tabled for the agenda because of the new arrangements for occasional Police attendance. The Mayor read an e-mail from Sgt. Goom, offering his apologies for the meeting and a short written report. Cllr. Munro-Price suggested that any member having time-sensitive issues involving the Police should notify the Clerk.

#### **2040 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2011**

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

#### **2041 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING**

##### **Minute 2024(b) – National Coastguard Closure**

Cllr. Denton-White asked whether a response had been received to the Council's letter. The Clerk said no reply had come.

#### **2042 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr. Munro-Price referred to the letter received from the Friends of St. George's Church, announcing the decision to close the Friends following the

decision of the Churches Conservation Trust to take over the running of the church.

It was suggested the Council write to the Trust, but first Cllr. Ames will speak to Mr Pitman, Chairman of the Friends, and update members at the next meeting.

The Mayor also mentioned a letter from Galaxy Football Club, requesting a photo-shoot to help relaunch them as Portland Town Football Club. Cllr. Symes declared a personal interest. This will be left until the new Portland flag arrives.

#### **2043 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR**

There were none.

#### **2044 – 2012, MARINE & ENVIRONMENT MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2012**

##### **Minute 845 Grit Bins**

It was proposed by Cllr. Ames and **RESOLVED** – that the Council's fourth bin be located at Higher Light Lane.

#### **2045 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

##### **a) Payments for Authorisation**

**RESOLVED** – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2681 – 2691) in the sum of £3,030.95 including VAT be authorised for payment.

##### **b) 2011/2012 Financial Report to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012**

**RESOLVED** – that the report be accepted.

##### **c) Investment Account**

**RESOLVED** – that the full proceeds from the current fixed-term investment account together with a further £5,000 be invested in a NatWest one year fixed-term account.

##### **d) Appointment of Internal Auditor for Financial Year 2011/12**

Members considered the two quotations received and it was **RESOLVED** – that Accounts & Audit Services Ltd be appointed internal auditor for 2011/12.

#### **2046 – COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE**

Cllr. Wild had spoken to a representative of the Library Service regarding a possible move of the Library computer service to the existing Brackenbury School. Cllr. Collinge reported the possibility of a mobile library trialling visits to the British Legion and Islanders Club.

**RESOLVED** – that the Council write to the County Library Service expressing an interest in helping with a community-run library/IT facility and supporting visits from an additional mobile library.

#### **2047 – IT IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING INTERNET SERVICES**

The Clerk outlined his proposals for improving the Council's IT capability and commented on the two computers specified in the agenda papers. Cllr. Ian Munro-Price suggested the Council seek details from Comms UK on their

range of machines. It was proposed by Cllr. McCartney and **RESOLVED** – that the Clerk be empowered to spend up to the year’s budget provision for computer equipment to provide a cost-effective solution to the proposals listed in the Clerk’s report. Cllr. Symes would be involved in that process to advise and help facilitate it.

The future provision of Internet services was not dealt with.

#### **2048 – TOURISM BRIEFHOLDER**

It was proposed by Cllr. Collinge and **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Denton-White be appointed tourism briefholder on behalf of the Council.

It was further proposed by Cllr. Denton-White and **RESOLVED** – that a tourism working group consisting of Cllr. Bradley, Cllr. Amanda Munro and himself produce a draft brief to present to the Council at its next meeting.

#### **2049 – RISK ASSESSMENT**

The Clerk summarised the events to date towards producing a risk assessment for the Council. **RESOLVED** – that a working group comprising Cllrs. Ian Munro-Price, Bradley and Hughes, together with the Clerk meet soon to review the situation.

#### **2050 – CIVIC EXPENDITURE**

The Clerk said he had included this item in the agenda because of the perceived difficulties in meeting the reduced civic expenditure budget that had recently been set.

It was proposed by Cllr. Ames that the civic expenditure budget be raised to £1,000 to pay for just three events, Mayor-Making, the Ceremony of the Keys and a Civic Service or Day. The Events Sub-Committee would be reconstituted to manage this budget and seek sponsorship.

Cllr. Symes proposed an amendment to the motion that the Council not pay for its annual Gardening and Christmas Lights competitions in 2012/13, save for the cost of advertising. The amendment was **CARRIED** – and the composite motion **RESOLVED**.

It was agreed that the Events Committee should consist of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllrs. Ames, Denton-White, McCartney and Amanda Munro.

Cllrs. Bradley and Collinge offered to sponsor the two annual competitions, which was accepted.

#### **2051 – COUNCIL OFFICES**

It was proposed by Cllr. Denton-White and **RESOLVED** – that the Council write to the Borough Council requesting that the outside of the Offices be repainted.

#### **2052 – COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANNING**

**RESOLVED** – that the Council proceed with formulating a community resilience plan, Cllr. Rod Wild to help facilitate this.

### **2053 – DRY STONE WALLS**

(Cllr. Ian Munro-Price declared a prejudicial interest and withdrew from the meeting. Cllr. Bradley took the Chair.)

The Planning Officer's guidance notes had been inadvertently left out of the agenda, so the item was deferred.

(Cllr. Munro-Price returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair.)

### **2054 – STREET LIGHTING**

Cllr. Ames said there were set criteria for reducing the street lighting at night. If a case were made for the lighting to remain on in a certain area it would be reinstated. This had happened with the roundabout at Avalanche Road and another site on the Island was under consideration. It was acknowledged that the area around the Grove was dark now in the early hours.

### **2055 – SECOND STONE MEMORIAL SEAT**

Cllr. West said the second seat had been manufactured and according to Cllr. Collinge was due to be installed on Victory Road after the Olympics had taken place.

### **2056 – UPHAM WATERCOLOURS**

The Clerk reported that the Borough had responded recently to a request for the issue to be progressed. It would shortly be brought to Borough members for consideration, including the possibilities that the watercolours would be donated to the Town Council or Portland Museum. The paintings would also be valued.

### **2057 – REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price reported that one main focus of the Borough Council's attention at present was Weymouth Town Centre. He thought the bad publicity it had received in the media recently was unwarranted.

Cllr. McCartney asked whether a parking scheme had been introduced for residents. Cllr. Munro-Price said a scheme was operating this winter, but it was estimated that it had cost the Borough £168,000 in lost revenue.

Cllr. Ames referred to the latest round of budget cuts at the County. Happily most of the money invested in Icelandic banks had been recovered. From a highways point of view the priority was to keep the roads clear before and during the Olympics.

### **2058 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS**

There were none.

### **2059 – FORWARD PLAN**

It was agreed to include a briefing session prior to the next annual round of budget-setting.

A report on preparations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee would be brought to the meeting in March, together with the item on dry stone walls.

Cllr. Ames said he had received a consultation document on quarrying, which had been delivered to his house because the Offices were closed at the time.

**2060 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012, commencing at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

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