

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH JULY 2011, COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. Chris Briggs (Mayor's Chaplain) and two members of the public.

1917 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

1918 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

1919 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

1920 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price from the Chair said he had tried to speak to Inspector Meteau about the situation of the Police's absence, but so far without success.

Cllr. Tim Munro drew attention to the fact that the Police were attending Portland Community Partnership meetings.

b) Public Half-Hour

Lynn Baddock asked about the prospects for the play area adjoining Hambro car park, the vegetation partly covering Old Hill footpath and the closing of the footpath over the old railway bridge near Castle Road.

Cllr. Wild answered that Revive would shortly be commencing work on the play area and the footpath near Castle Road had been closed because a hole appeared in the bridge.

Alan Weir commented that he had tried to get involved in the work of the local community and in doing so had become confused about how the Town Council fitted in with other Island organisations, such as the Portland Community Partnership.

The two questioners were asked to provide their contact details so that Cllr. Tim Munro could assist them.

1921 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15TH JUNE 2011

a) Minute 1903, para 1 – Written Questions: Revive Portland

Cllr. West requested that the second sentence be amended to read, “It was proposed and agreed that Cllr. West should attend future meetings as the Council’s representative, if she were willing, and Cllr. Wild...”

b) Minute 1904 – Grit Bins

Cllr. Tim Munro said that the sense of the second paragraph was that the County’s gritting routes excluded all bus routes. After some debate the Clerk’s suggestion for the last clause was agreed, “... County, some bus routes being excluded.”

With these amendments the minutes of the meeting were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

1922 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

Minute 1906 – Co-option of Members

The Clerk reported the comments of the Borough elections officer, that the Borough was content for the Town Council to continue with co-opting rather than call an election.

Cllr. Munro criticised the Borough Council for not responding to the complaint of one of the co-option candidates. The Clerk was asked to contact the Borough to find out what action it intended to take as a result of the letter and whether the request of one person was sufficient to call an election. Cllr. Ian Munro-Price from the Chair announced that a special meeting of the Town Council would be held on 27th July 2011 to consider candidates for co-option.

1923 – TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. Munro-Price referred to the letter of complaint received that was mentioned under the previous agenda item. He also reminded members of the Ceremony of the Keys due to be held on the following Sunday.

1924 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR

There were none.

1925 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

RESOLVED - that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2583 – 2593) in the sum of £2,104.30 including VAT be authorised for payment.

b) 2011/2012 Financial Report to 30th June 2011

Cllr. Tim Munro queried that the precept was exactly the same as the previous year when the number of Band D equivalents was likely to be rising. The Clerk undertook to check this with the Borough.

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted.

1926 – PORTLAND FAIR, 2011

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price advised members that the Wynns had requested an earlier start to the Fair than Thursday as normal. Cllr. Tim Munro suggested

that there could be an issue arising from the promoters' use of the Masonic car park. Cllr. Symes wondered about the need for extra police resources. **RESOLVED** – that the request for an earlier start to the autumn Fair be accepted in principle, subject to securing the necessary permissions and increasing the contract amount to be negotiated.

1927 – OFFICE I.T. AND PHONE SYSTEMS

The Clerk reported that two cordless phones were now in use. The operation of the desktop computer had been speeded up significantly, particularly early in the working day. Other difficulties with the lap-top and in printing had been overcome.

The Clerk went on to outline some of his intentions to improve the office I.T. capability, acquiring a new computer, moving the lap-top to Windows 7 operation and connecting the computers to the photocopier for direct printing.

Cllr. Symes was added to the Personnel Working Group to assist with I.T. assessment.

1928 – STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED – that the Standing Orders Working Group be reconvened, comprising Cllrs. Ames, Collinge, Ian Munro-Price, Tim Munro and Wild.

1929 – MOBILE PHONES

Cllr. Bradley presented a motion, “that all mobile phones be turned off at Town Council and other Committee meetings, as a mark of respect for the Chair and other Councillors.” Cllr. Ames supported the proposal saying that this was the accepted practice in County Council meetings.

Cllrs. Tim Munro and Ian Munro-Price opposed the motion on the grounds that they among others used their mobiles for making notes and consulting features held on their phones.

Cllr. Tim Munro proposed an amendment, “that all mobile phones be silenced at Town Council and other Committee meetings, as a mark of respect for the Chair and other Councillors, in order that the Council is allowed to conduct its business uninterrupted.” This was defeated.

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price raised the aspect of “flight mode” for mobiles and proposed an amendment to add the following sentence at the end of the motion, “switching a mobile device to flight mode is considered an acceptable way of limiting its ability to ring and vibrate.” This was agreed.

RESOLVED – that all mobile phones... other Councillors. Switching a mobile device to flight mode is considered an acceptable way of limiting its ability to ring and vibrate.

1930 – REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Tim Munro said it was difficult to know how and what to report on, but he was very willing to take and answer questions from members.

Cllr. Hughes asked whether there was a deadline for the completion of roadworks in Weymouth. Cllr. Tim Munro understood the scheduled date was 28th July 2011, although Cllr. Ames thought them likely to extend beyond.

Cllr. Hughes also asked about progress of the “Weymouth Eye” observation tower. Cllr. Tim Munro replied that it had been approved by the Borough Management Committee, but not Planning yet. Cllr. Ian Munro-Price added that significant economic benefits were predicted from the tower through the number of extra tourists drawn in.

Cllr. Collinge enquired as to who had actually designed the Weymouth centre road system. Cllr. Munro said that once it was complete it could then be monitored to see how successfully it was operating.

1931 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

There were none.

1932– APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED – That Cllr. Bradley be appointed a representative on the Borough Standards Committee.

1933 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 14th September 2011 commencing at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.

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