

## **PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 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 (from 7.05pm), T. Munro, Mrs E. Munro-Price (from 7.05pm) and R. Wild.

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

#### **1896 – PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

#### **1897 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors D. Symes, Mrs S. West and T. Woodcock. They were also received from Cllr. Mrs E. Munro-Price prior to the meeting.

#### **1898 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **1899 – OPEN FORUM**

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

There were no questions forthcoming.

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

From the chair Cllr. Ian Munro-Price reported no further feedback from the Police on their willingness to be involved.

#### **1900 – MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011**

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

#### **1901 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING**

##### **Minute 1884, para 1 – Co-option of Members**

Cllrs. Munro and Ames criticised the shortage of time afforded for members of the public to apply. Cllr. Ian Munro-Price as Chair referred them to the later agenda item if either of them wished to make a proposal.

#### **1902 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

#### **1903 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR**

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price drew members' attention to a meeting of Revive Portland on the following Friday. Cllr. West volunteered to attend future meetings as the Council's representative and Cllr. Wild undertook to go to the particular meeting mentioned.

Cllr. Munro-Price also mentioned a business survey form lately sent by the Borough Council and requiring completion by 29<sup>th</sup> June. He would therefore take it as an additional urgent item at the end of the meeting.

#### **1904 – FINANCE & PROJECTS COMMITTEE, 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2011**

##### **Minute 1092(b) – Grit Bins**

Cllr. Munro said that para. 1 of the minute was incorrect. Since April 2010 the responsibility for filling grit bins lay with the County Council and the actual replenishment was done on an ad hoc basis. He understood that Dorchester Town Council were getting rid of all their grit bins.

Cllr. Munro added that the County Council were prepared to grit a designated 2,500 km of main roads in the County, which did not include all bus routes. Other roads were the responsibility of parish councils and householders.

Cllr. Collinge was concerned about pedestrians slipping on pavements outside shops, whose owners were concerned about the legal implications of them trying to clear the snow and ice. Cllr. Munro said these people were protected by the law as long as they had made a “diligent effort” to clear the surrounding areas of their property.

#### **1905 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

**RESOLVED** - that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2569 – 2582) in the sum of £2,635.45 including VAT be authorised for payment.

##### **b) 2010/2011 Financial Report to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011**

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

#### **1906 – CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS**

Two members of the public, Richard Denton-White and Penny McCartney, attended as nominees for co-option.

Cllr. Munro thought that insufficient time, six days, had been allowed for co-option.

**RESOLVED** – that co-option for the two Council vacancies be suspended and readvertised.

It was suggested that the Island libraries, community offices, other community groups, the Portland Community Partnership and the Council website also be used to advertise the vacancies.

The Clerk was asked to contact the elections officer at the Borough regarding the precise legal situation on co-options at this time and liaise with the Mayor.

#### **1907 – COUNCIL STRATEGY**

Opening the debate, Cllr. Ian Munro-Price said the Council needed to know what it did and what it aimed to do. Other members referred to the current Localism Bill and Town Plan.

**RESOLVED** – that the Finance & Projects Committee review the current Town Plan.

#### **1908 – PORTLAND FLAG**

**RESOLVED** – (a) that costs be sought for dye-sublimation, plastic flags for the next meeting,  
(b) that a Flag Working Group, comprising Cllrs. Bradley, Collinge, Hughes and Elspie Munro-Price, meet to work on the details and report to the next appropriate meeting of Town Council or Finance & Projects Committee,  
(c) that the Council not register for VAT until the Working Group had reported.

The recommendation to spend £1,000 on acquiring a stock of flags and pennants was defeated.

#### **1909 – PERSONNEL WORKING GROUP**

**RESOLVED** – that Cllrs. Ian Munro-Price, Bradley and Hughes be appointed to the Working Group by virtue of their offices and should continue to assess ongoing issues, including administrative accommodation

#### **1910 – TOWN LENGTHSMAN**

**RESOLVED** – that a Working Group be reappointed.  
Its brief should include looking at the possibility of a partnership agreement.

It was agreed that the Working Group should consist of Cllrs. Ames, Bradley, Tim Munro and Wild.

#### **1911 – RISK ASSESSMENT**

Some members expressed dissatisfaction with the format of the risk assessment summary and the methodology / assessment behind it.

**RESOLVED** – that the Personnel Working Group review the assessment made.

#### **1912 – MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR**

Cllr. Munro proposed procedures for the election of the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor to take the form of a new Standing Order.

**RESOLVED** – that the following be approved as a new Standing Order:-

##### **Appointment of Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor**

- a) They are elected annually to serve for one year.
- b) A seniority list shall be made up with Past Mayors' seniority taken from the date of Mayoral Year end.
- c) If several Councillors are eligible with identical seniority, then seniority will be determined in alphabetical order.
- d) All service shall count towards seniority, subject to condition (b).
- e) Prior to the nomination meeting the Councillors shall be asked in order of seniority to declare in writing their intention to stand.

**1913 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS**

**a) Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust**

Cllr. Collinge said that the Trust would shortly be opening a café and shop at the Drill Hall. It was also willing to store and sell Portland flags.

**b) Transport**

Cllr. Ames voiced the concerns of Islanders about road travel to Weymouth town centre.

**1914 – REPORTS ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE ISLAND AT COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCIL LEVELS**

**RESOLVED** – that future Town Council agendas include an item for County and Borough Councillors who are on the Town Council to report and answer questions.

**1915 – WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL BUSINESS SURVEY 2011**

The Clerk sought the views of members on the more subjective parts of the survey. In particular members responded that they were not satisfied with the quality of the Council's premises and for each of the reasons stated on the form. Regarding location in the next five years the members did not want to give a definite answer.

**1916 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011 commencing at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm.

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