

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH 2013

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. T. Gomm (Mayor's Chaplain), Matt Ryan and Nick Thornley (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), together with three members of the public.

2332 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

2333 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. R. Hughes.

2334 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

2335 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

Cllr. Denton-White proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that Agenda Item 13 – Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor, 2013/14 be taken immediately after Item 8 – Written Questions for the Mayor.

2336 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

No representative of the Police was present.

Cllr. Barton raised the question of parking on verges. Cllr. Woodcock observed that different conditions applied at different locations on the Island, while Cllr. Munro said there was a need for the police to enforce the parking bye-laws.

It was agreed that Cllr. Barton would investigate land ownership and implementation of any bye-laws, and the Clerk ask Sgt. Want concerning his own related enquiries.

b) Public Half-Hour

There were no contributions from the public.

2337 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 20TH FEBRUARY AND 27TH FEBRUARY 2013

a) Town Council Meeting, 20th February 2013

Minute 2317(a) – Visitor Centre, Portland Bill

Cllr. Nowak said the date at the end of the first paragraph should have read "September" instead of "November."

With this amendment the minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

b) Special Town Council Meeting, 27th February 2013

Minute 2330 – Portland Fair

Cllr. Tim Munro criticised the minute for making no reference to the Clerk's apology to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

It was proposed by Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price and **RESOLVED** – that the minute should include such a reference. The Clerk undertook to provide a draft amendment for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price to consider.

With this proviso the minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

2338 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Town Council Meeting, 27th February 2013

i) Minute 2310 – Minutes of the Marine & Environment Partnership Meeting, 6th February 2013

Cllr. Tim Munro pointed out that an item had not been included on the current meeting agenda as promised regarding non-elected members signing up to the Code of Conduct.

ii) Minute 2323 – Portland Fair

Cllr. Tim Munro was concerned that the resolution made no mention of delegating further negotiations to the Mayor and Deputy. The Clerk said he had no recollection of that being part of the resolution and in any case such a proposal would be contrary to the delegation of local authority statutory powers and functions (Section 101(1) of the Local Government Act, 1972).

Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price proposed that minute 2323 be amended. The Clerk pointed out that the meeting minutes had just been agreed as a correct record.

RESOLVED – that minute 2323 be amended, Cllr. Tim Munro to frame the addition.

2339 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. Bradley confirmed the appointment of Mrs Pam Hamblin as Assistant Town Clerk. Mrs Hamblin was present at the meeting. The Mayor mentioned that former Cllr. Maurice Gosling was continuing his recuperation in Portland Hospital. She also publicised her Charity Ball, taking place on 13th April.

2340 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR

There were none.

2341 – TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR, 2013/14

It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Ames be nominated for the post of Town Mayor in 2013/14.

It was proposed by Cllr. Woodcock, seconded by Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price and **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Tim Munro be nominated for the post of Deputy Town Mayor in 2013/14.

2342 – PRESENTATION ON THE PORTLAND BILL VISITOR CENTRE

The presentation was given by Matt Ryan. He first outlined the circumstances leading to the Borough's decision to relinquish the Visitor Centre. Part of this was a wish to switch to more electronic means of dealing with tourist enquiries.

Members then had the opportunity to question Mr Ryan on the financial information presented and the wider issues associated with the Centre.

2343 – PORTLAND BILL VISITOR CENTRE

The debate moved fairly seamlessly into a discussion among members on how to proceed.

It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and seconded, that the Council say "Yes" to taking over responsibility for the Visitor Centre without making a firm commitment, talk to potential partners and negotiate later. This proposal was not voted on.

Subsequently it was proposed by Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price and **RESOLVED** – that the Council convene a special meeting of a new sub-committee to discuss the Visitor Centre further. It was also **RESOLVED** – that the meeting take place on Monday, 8th April 2013, starting at 7.00pm.

It was further agreed that Cllr. Barton should speak to the Crown Agent about the situation.

2344 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Clerk requested that Agenda Item 11(c) – Fixed Interest Account be taken after Item 12 – Island Lengthsman / Handyman as a Council decision on the latter might have an effect on the former.

2345 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2845 – 2855) in the sum of £2,324.25 including VAT be authorised for payment.

b) 2012/13 Financial Report to 28th February 2013

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted.

(Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price left the meeting at 8.45pm).

2346 – ISLAND LENGTHSMAN / HANDYMAN

It was agreed that there needed to be another meeting of the Working Group before Council could consider further action.

2347 – FIXED INTEREST ACCOUNT

It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that the Council transfer its fixed interest account with NatWest on maturity to a twelve-month fixed interest account with the Co-op Bank.

2348 – POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION

Cllr. Tim Munro stressed that the site under particular consideration, Brackenbury School, would in any case remain under the ownership of the County Council.

It was agreed to follow a suggestion from Cllr. Nowak that the report be noted and the matter be left with the County and Borough.

Cllr. Munro reminded members that the Borough had given a commitment to house the Town Council in perpetuity.

Cllr. Barton expressed dissatisfaction with the Town's present accommodation and wondered how long this would continue.

2349 – PROVISION OF WEBSITE SUPPORT

The Clerk reported that the Borough had served notice that it wished to end its agreement to develop and maintain the Town's website. He had begun to investigate other potential suppliers. Two suggestions were made of possible website developers. The Clerk will continue to investigate and report back to the Council.

2350 – CHEYNE WEARES

It was proposed by Cllr. Collinge and **RESOLVED** – that the Council welcomed and agreed to Mrs Craig's request to site a stone seat at Cheyne Weares in memory of her son.

2351 – PARLOUR ARMCHAIRS

The Clerk reported that the seat of one armchair in the Parlour had been refilled free of charge and asked whether Council wished the rest to be refurbished.

It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that no further action be taken.

Following a suggestion from Cllr. Barton it was agreed to offer the unwanted items of furniture in the storeroom to the community project at Cowden Farm.

2352 – REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Tim Munro said the resurfacing work in Fortuneswell had been put back by two weeks. This would involve working at night with two-way traffic along the High Street.

2353 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

None were presented.

2354 – FORWARD PLAN

Code of Conduct requirements for Community Partnership members of Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

2355 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 17th April 2013, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm.

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