

**PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs S. Bradley (Mayor), 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 and R. Wild.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Reverend Tim Gomm and ten members of the public.

**2237 – PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

**2238 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr. R. Hughes, together with Sgt. Ged Want (Dorset Police) and Jean Taylor (Portland Local History Group)

**2239 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Ames declared an interest in three of the organisations seeking grants.

**2240 – OPEN FORM**

**a) Police Question Time**

No representative of the Police was present.

**b) Public Half-Hour**

Mr Matthews, on behalf of Portland Community Partnership, said he understood the Borough Council had added three sites to its Alternative Sites document, currently out to public consultation. He requested the Town Council not to comment at this time on the two Portland sites among the three, because the Partnership would prefer them to be discussed as part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr Darby drew attention to three trees at Hambro car park. He asked that the Council do its best to preserve one of them in particular, an oak tree.

Mr Darby also asked whether the windsock at Ferrybridge could be replaced or removed because of its ragged condition. Cllr. Ames replied that this had already been considered by the County Council.

Finally Mr Darby noted that in previous minutes the Jubilee Pillars were also called the Gateway Pillars and requested that a different choice of name be used because of the inappropriateness of the term "Gateway." Cllr. Barton, as a former member of the committee responsible for installing the pillars, briefly described the chain of events that led to them being erected on the field adjacent to Victoria Square. The original intention had been to put them at Ferrybridge as a "gateway" to Portland, but circumstances had dictated otherwise.

**2241 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2012**

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

**2242 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**2243 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

**2244 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR**

None had been received.

**2245 – 2012, MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2012**

**RESOLVED** – that the tourism briefholder (currently Cllr. Denton-White) endeavour to attend meetings of the Partnership.

**2246 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**a) Payments for Authorisation**

**RESOLVED** – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2798 – 2808) in the sum of £2,435.08 including VAT be authorised for payment.

**b) 2012/13 Financial Report to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012**

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

(Cllr. Ames withdrew from the meeting.)

**2247 – COUNCIL GRANTS, 2012/13**

The Council heard presentations from five of the ten organisations that had applied for grants.

The Clerk said that due to an administrative error the letters of invitation to the organisations had gone out much later than intended, to which had been added a confusion over the date of the grants meeting. He apologised to the Council for these mistakes.

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price proposed that a decision on the grants be postponed so that presentations might be heard from all the organisations involved. This motion was **LOST**.

Cllr. Collinge proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that a full and final decision on the 2012/13 grants be made at the meeting.

Cllr. Bradley proposed that the press and public be excluded from the meeting in order that the decision be taken. This motion was **LOST**.

Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the decision on grants be taken after agenda item 25.

(Cllr. Ames rejoined the meeting.)

#### **2248 – WAKEHAM TELEPHONE KIOSK**

The Clerk explained the recent circumstances relating to insurance for the kiosk. The Friends were now showing some reticence at proceeding with the purchase and he thought the Council might have to lease the box to the Friends on a long-term arrangement. Accordingly he had arranged with the Council's insurance for the kiosk to be added to its schedule of assets. There would be no premium charge under the current annual agreement, but an additional sum of £26.50 from the start of the new one in June 2012.

In the course of the ensuing debate Mr Nigel Glover, Chairman of the Friends, indicated that they were now willing to buy the kiosk as originally intended. Accordingly it was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that the Council proceed with the sale of Wakeham telephone kiosk.

#### **2249 – ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Cllr. Denton-White proposed that the next agenda item (13) be taken after agenda item 20. This motion was **LOST**.

#### **2250 – CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION**

It was proposed by Cllr. Ames and **RESOLVED** – that the cost of engraving the competition trophies and refreshment ingredients for the awards evening be paid by the Council, the Mayor and any other willing members to bear the cost of the competition prizes.

#### **2251 – OFFICE ACCOMMODATION**

Cllr. Nowak spoke to his proposals outlined in the agenda for the Council Offices to relocate to redundant County Council premises. After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** – that the Council instruct the Clerk to take early action to start a discussion with the relevant Borough Council officers and report back to the Council.

#### **2252 – TOURISM**

It was proposed by Cllr. Denton-White and **RESOLVED** – that a new Tourism Working Group be set up, comprising three or four members including the tourism briefholder.

It was also **RESOLVED** – that the Working Group comprise Cllrs. Barton, Denton-White (briefholder) and Amanda Munro.

Mr Matthews was allowed to speak and he stated that Portland Community Partnership was developing a tourism strategy itself. Cllr. Denton-White proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the Tourism Working Group be able to co-opt others, including members of the public, as required on an ad hoc basis without voting rights.

#### **2253 – RISK ASSESSMENT**

The Clerk spoke to his written report, saying that he was bringing to Council's attention the first four individual risks that had been identified as significant.

It was proposed by Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price and **RESOLVED** – that a Risk Working Group be set up to process the list of significant risks, the Group to comprise the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllr. Wild.

#### **2254 – LENGTH OF SERVICE**

The Clerk said he was bringing this matter to Council because there had been occasions in the past when contention had occurred over how the broken periods of service of some Councillors should be regarded officially in terms of seniority. The list of seniority when considering nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor was taken as the guiding document that expressed the current procedure.

Following discussion Cllr. Tim Munro proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that policy guideline (d) on the list of seniority, “Continuous service only to count towards seniority,” be deleted.

The Clerk confirmed with members that their intention was total service should replace continuous service for both general and mayoral seniority.

#### **2255 – ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Because time was moving on members sought to defer a number of the remaining agenda items. A motion was proposed and an amendment, but both were subsequently withdrawn. It is the Clerk’s opinion that the debate became somewhat confused at this point since at least two other topics were drawn into the discussion. These are dealt with under separate minutes.

Cllr. Tim Munro proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the following agenda items be deferred:-

- 18) Review of Standing Orders
- 20) Co-option of Councillors
- 21) Upham Watercolours
- 22) Reports from Borough & County Councillors
- 23) Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies and Voluntary Posts

#### **2256 – CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Clerk’s written report had discussed procedures involving prejudicial interests in the light of the Localism Act.

It was agreed the Council would retain the procedure for a Councillor to withdraw from a meeting if he or she had a prejudicial interest in the item under discussion.

#### **2257 – FORWARD PLAN**

Members reiterated their wish for further training in budgets and precepts, to be provided prior to the next Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm.

#### **2258 – COUNCIL GRANTS, 2012/13**

**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 the stated item, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

(Cllr Ames remained in the meeting but did not take part in the debate that followed nor vote.)

**RESOLVED** – that the following grants be made for 2012/13:-

Life Education	£205
Portland Red Triangle Cricket Club	£425
Tornadoes of South Dorset Swimming Club	£500
Weston Community Hall	£370

Cllr. Tim Munro proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that these organisations be requested to publicise the assistance of the Town Council, including where possible display of the Council logo.

**2259 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm.

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