

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2012

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

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

2213 – MINUTE’S SILENCE

The meeting stood in memory of the recently deceased Derek Wolfe, a former Town Clerk to the Council.

2214 – PRAYERS

The Mayor’s Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

2215 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. R. Hughes and Mrs E. Munro-Price, together with Mr John Hancock, a candidate for co-option.

2216 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

2217 – OPEN FORM

a) Public Half-Hour

There were no questions or comments from the public.

b) Police Question Time

No representative of Dorset Police was present.

2218 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

Cllr. Tim Munro requested that Agenda Item 11 – Co-option of Councillors be taken immediately after the Open Forum. This was **RESOLVED**.

2219 – CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Tim Munro asked whether the list of interview questions could not have been supplied to members prior to the meeting. Cllr. Ames asked him to raise the matter at the next Council meeting.

Four candidates for co-option attended the meeting and were each interviewed in turn by the members using a standard prepared list of questions.

A ballot was conducted and the Mayor read the results to the meeting. It was then indicated that the candidate with the least number of votes would be eliminated and a second ballot conducted for the four remaining candidates.

At this point some members expressed their dissatisfaction with the voting procedure. The Clerk stated that they were simply following due procedure and the Chair read out to the meeting the appropriate Council directive, Standing Order 37 – Voting on Appointments.

Against this it was argued that the wording of the Standing Order referred to appointing one person only and could not be extrapolated to situations where there were two or more vacancies of the same kind.

Cllr. Tim Munro proposed that Standing Orders be suspended for the duration of the agenda item. Cllr. Ian Munro-Price proposed an amendment, adding to the original motion that a second ballot be conducted with all five candidates being eligible, the two with the highest number of votes to be elected. This amendment was **RESOLVED**. The original motion as amended was then **RESOLVED**.

The second ballot took place and the Deputy Mayor read out the results. Mrs Rachel Barton and Mr Ray Nowak were declared co-opted to the Council.

(Cllr. West left the meeting at 8.20 pm.)

2220 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19TH SEPTEMBER 2012

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

2221 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

a) Minute 2199 – Portland Fair

Cllr. Tim Munro asked why the debate had been conducted with the exclusion of press and public. The Clerk narrated the sequence of events leading up to the debate and explained that the Council in this particular agenda item was conducting business negotiations and required privacy in order to reach a decision on what negotiating strategy to adopt with the Fair operators.

(Cllr. Woodcock left the meeting at 8.30 pm.)

b) Minute 2205 – New Code of Conduct: Registration of Interests

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price asked whether the Register of Interests form he had recently submitted was valid. The Clerk explained that it was not, since the forms sent out to members had unfortunately been superseded shortly after.

It was confirmed that Town Council representatives were no longer eligible to vote at Borough Standards Committee meetings under the terms of the Localism Act. Independent members incidentally were also ineligible and in the case of the Borough had all resigned as a consequence.

2222 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

2223 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR

None had been received.

2224 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

Cllr. Denton-White requested that Agenda Item 12 – Tourism Brief be taken immediately after Item 9 – 2012 Partnership Meeting. This was agreed.

2225 – 2012, MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON 3RD OCTOBER 2012

Minute 889 – Name of Partnership

- a) **RESOLVED** – that the name of the Partnership revert to Marine & Environment Partnership.
- b) The recommendation, that the Partnership add to its terms of reference the clause, “to consider all issues relating to tourism on the Island,” was **LOST**.

It was requested that the third recommendation of the Partnership under this heading be brought to the next Council meeting.

2226 – TOURISM BRIEF

Cllr. Denton-White spoke to his written report, highlighting tourism as a major industry in the locality, much of it seasonal. In the course of his speech he referred to accommodation agencies and Cllr. Ian Munro-Price declared an interest.

In particular members discussed the terms of the draft brief. It was agreed to delete clause 5 and make minor alterations to clauses 4, 6 and 8.

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price proposed the omission in clause 2 of the word “young” and the amendment “...address employability in conjunction...” This was **LOST** on the casting vote of the Mayor.

The revised tourism brief then read as follows:-

1. To encourage Island businesses in the tourist industry to expand and create jobs, in partnership with the EU (structural fund), regional and local organisations such as the PCP.
2. To assist in any way possible in providing training opportunities for young people in the tourist industry, to help address the employability of 18-35 year olds in conjunction with schools and Weymouth College.
3. To promote Portland as a holiday destination and a good place to do business with all the other outside agencies and WPBC.
4. To carefully monitor with the planning officer any planning application that is relevant directly or indirectly, to the local tourist industry.
5. To maximise the Portland Town Crier's ability to positively promote the Island.
6. To attend relevant meetings and conferences promoting tourism in the region, Borough and Island.

7. To ensure that the Marine & Environment Committee takes on board that one of its roles is to focus on tourism on Portland.
8. To ensure that the regional and local media are fully informed about the efforts of the Town Council to promote tourism as part of the Olympic heritage and legacy.

It was also agreed that the Tourism Working Group be reconstituted to operate on a continuing advisory basis, the appointments to be made at the next Council meeting.

2227 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

RESOLVED – that a donation of £50 be made to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in return for the wreath supplied to the Council for Remembrance Sunday.

It was then **RESOLVED** – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2784 – 2797) in the sum of £2,568.10 including VAT be authorised for payment.

b) 2012/13 Financial Report to 30th September 2012

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted.

c) External Auditor's Report, 2011/12

RESOLVED – that the auditor's report, with ancillary comments from the Clerk, be accepted.

2228 – REPORT ON BUILDING

The Clerk spoke to his written report on the Council Offices and added that the private application by two Town Councillors for listed building status had been turned down.

There was a discussion regarding disability access at the Offices and alternative accommodation.

(Cllr. Ian Munro-Price left the meeting at 9.35pm.)

Cllr. Denton-White moved next business, which was **RESOLVED**.

2229 – DRAFT COMMUNITY PLAN FOR WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND, 2013/16

RESOLVED – that the Council submit a return, answering “yes” to Questions 1 and 2, and adding the words “and Portland” to the Economy priority statement.

(Cllr. Bradley left the meeting. Cllr. Ames took the Chair.)

2230 – NEW CODE OF CONDUCT, RISK ASSESSMENT

These agenda items were deferred to the November Council meeting.

2231 – REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Ames regretted the recent announcement from South-West Coaches that the company was withdrawing a number of bus services affecting the Island.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to South-West Coaches, stating the Council's concerns.

2232 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

There was no discussion of the reports submitted.

2233 – DAPTC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

a) RESOLVED – that the Council support the motion,
“West Lulworth Parish Council proposes that DAPTC urges NALC and others to press for all local relay television transmitters to be upgraded to receive the full 40 digital channels that are available, currently only 15 channels can be received.”

b) RESOLVED – that the Council not support the motion,
“Sixpenny Handley Parish Council proposes that DAPTC, through NALC, urges Government to revert to the statutory recommended 12 week period for consultation and to rescind the change to 8 weeks. With the amount of consultations being generated and the frequency of some parish councils meetings the revised 8 week period is creating difficulty and is often unworkable.”

c) RESOLVED – that the Council support the motion,
“Milborne St. Andrew Parish Council is concerned about the services being past (sic) to them from the first and second tier of government without the necessary resources, both financially and human, following. This creates pressure on parish and town councils who wish to take on services for the benefit of their communities, to raise the extra funding through the Precept.

“Milborne St. Andrew Parish Council therefore request that DAPTC lobby both county wide (sic) and nationally for any future devolution of services to be accompanied by an offer of additional funding or other resources.”

2234 – FORWARD PLAN

No items were raised.

2235 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It was proposed by Cllr. Ames and **RESOLVED** – that in view of the expected addition to the staff's workload the Council is prepared in principle to pay overtime for time worked on the Neighbourhood Plan.

2236 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 14th November 2012, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 10.15 pm.

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