

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2010, COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillors D. Thurston (Chair), Mrs S. Bradley, N. Charlton, Mrs J. Collinge, R. Denton-White, G. Duncan, M. Gosling, R. Hughes, T. Munro, Mrs E. Munro-Price, I. Munro-Price and Mrs S. West.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. Chris Briggs (Mayor's Chaplain), PC Steve Morris (Dorset Police) and one member of the general public.

1794 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

1795 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor R. Paisley.

1796 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1797 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

Cllr. West asked concerning an attempted break-in in Fortuneswell, which she had personally witnessed and reported. She had not received any feedback. PC Morris was not acquainted with the particular case, but undertook to follow it up.

Cllr. Collinge queried the security of the building. PC Morris said the first essential in such a case was to leave the building in a secure condition.

Replying to a further question from Cllr. Collinge, PC Morris said the burnt out car found recently in a quarry had been traced to Hampshire.

Cllr. Munro spoke in connection with the "No Excuse" campaign, enquiring what was the procedure for the police to report back to the community on traffic incidents such as the recent fatality on the Island. PC Morris undertook to find out.

Cllr. Hughes mentioned a large boulder which had been laid across a footpath at New Ground. PC Morris replied that this had now been removed.

b) Public Half-Hour

Mr Frampton drew members' attention to the bus service to and from Weymouth after 6pm. Frequently passengers had long waits beyond the scheduled intervals with the first bus to arrive being followed close behind by other buses. Several Councillors commented on the situation and their own responses. Members were asked to present information on the problem so that the Council could write to First Bus listing its concerns.

1798 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14TH JULY 2010

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

1799 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

Minute 1782 – Invitation to Verne Prison

Cllr. Munro asked whether the invitation had been addressed to the Town Mayor “and his Escort.” He criticised the Mayor for using the term “Mayoress” instead of “Mayor’s Escort.” Cllr. Thurston as Chair noted the criticism.

1800 – TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. Thurston mentioned the imminent road works by Ferrybridge and sewage works in the High Street, Fortuneswell, necessitating two-way traffic along Fortuneswell itself. Cllr. Munro added that he had asked the County Council to review the scheme. In particular he was seeking £2,000 compensation from the County for the Town Council to share among local businesses that suffered financially as a result.

The Mayor passed on notice of Jurassic Coast awards, suggesting the Council nominate Lyn Cooch for her work relating to the Coastal Path. Cllr. Collinge said she was intending to nominate Hannah Sofaer of the Quarry Trust.

Cllr. Thurston had received correspondence from individuals, suggesting the possibility of a parish poll on the acceptability of the proposed Academy.

Finally he said the contract for Portland had been signed and he was negotiating the Council’s charge for the spring/summer Fair with the operators.

1801– WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR

There were none.

1802 – FINANCE & PROJECTS COMMITTEE, 11TH AUGUST 2010

a) Minute 1007 – Council Grants, 2010/11

RESOLVED – that the following grants be made:-

Boscawen Lifesaving & Rescue Club: £375, subject to providing a copy of its latest accounts

Island of Portland Heritage Trust: £350

Islanders Club: £189

Portland United Youth Football Club: £250, subject to providing a copy of its latest accounts and making a further presentation at the next meeting of the Committee

South Dorset Community Sports Trust: £335

b) Minute 1008 – Town Crier Uniform

RESOLVED – that the Council pay Mrs Cave £200 for making the uniform

c) Minute 1013 – Portland Town Flag

RESOLVED – that the Council purchase a Portland flag, 5' x 7.5,' at an estimated cost of £150

Cllr. Thurston suggested the possibility of other organisations being invited also to buy a Town flag. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next Finance & Projects Committee meeting.

1803 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2436 – 2451) in the sum of £3,783.70 including VAT be authorised for payment, with the condition specified for Boscawen Lifesaving & Rescue Club in minute 1801(a).

b) 2010/11 Financial Report to 29th August 2010

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted.

1804 – FINANCE & PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Cllr. Thurston introduced the item, stating that no draft terms of reference for the Committee had been submitted.

Cllr. Munro said that this was not necessary. Council had agreed in June 2007 that the quorum for the Committee should be seven members, so no decision of significance could be taken there without a “goodly proportion” of all the Councillors being present.

Cllr. Thurston reminded members that the initiative for reviewing its terms of reference had come from the Chair of the Finance & Projects Committee herself.

Cllr. Munro proposed an amendment deleting all the words after “allocated.”
RESOLVED – that the amendment be accepted to delete the following words after “allocated”: “and the remit of the Committee, and also consider the recommendations for revised Terms of Reference for the Committee.”

Cllr. Munro then proposed a further amendment to add the following words to the motion after “allocated”: “and the remit of the Committee, and also consider recommendations for revised Terms of Reference for the Committee.” **RESOLVED** – that the amendment be accepted.

The composite motion was then presented and it was **RESOLVED** – that the Finance & Projects Committee have full delegated powers to make financial decisions within the budget funds allocated and the remit of the Committee, and also consider recommendations for revised Terms of Reference for the Committee.

1805 – TOWN CRIER

RESOLVED – that the post be titled “Town Crier.”

Members then discussed the Terms of Reference as amended by the Town Crier Working Group. A series of further amendments to the Terms was

proposed by Cllr. Munro, assisted by others. **RESOLVED** – that the amendments be accepted as a group.

The substantive motion was then taken.

RESOLVED – that the following paragraphs of the Terms be amended:-

3(a). The Town Crier is free to take on commercial work as a Town Crier at a rate to be set by the Crier in negotiation with the organisation concerned. This commercial work is **only** to promote businesses and activities about Portland.

[*New paragraph*] 3(c). The Town Crier shall not undertake any work or display any behaviour that the Mayor or Deputy Mayor would consider brings the Council into disrepute or makes it subject to ridicule.

4. The Mayor or Deputy Mayor's prior approval is required for all activities for other organisations which are to be restricted to those of a non-political and non-contentious nature.

5. The Crier may on occasion be requested to participate in other events that may be thought appropriate at the discretion of the Mayor/Deputy Mayor on a very occasional basis.

Travel Expenses [*New heading*]

7. Legitimate travelling expenses will only be paid for attending civic events at the behest of the Town Council.

8. Any major anticipated expenditure with regard to upkeep of uniform is to be referred to the Town Council for consideration by the Finance & Projects Committee in any financial year.

Review Date

When considered appropriate by the Finance & Projects Committee.

1806 – ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOMMODATION

RESOLVED – If there are no health and safety issues attached to regular, everyday use of the Mayor's Parlour as administrative accommodation, the Council wishes to proceed with this option.

1807 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

Cllr. Munro read a letter he had received from the Portland Centre as its Town Council representative. He drew attention to a sentence in the letter. This said that when the Centre Committee had some confidential items to discuss, the Councillor would be expected to withdraw. Cllr. Munro saw no justified reason for this and therefore suggested that the Town Council withdraw its representation from the Portland Centre.

RESOLVED – that the Council write to the Portland Centre asking for the role of the Town Council representative to be identified.

1808 – EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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 following item(s) by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

1809 – EXCESS HOURS WORKED BY STAFF

RESOLVED – that as from 27th September 2010 members of staff should only work the hours they are contracted to work. The Personnel Working Group will meet as soon as convenient to make an assessment.

1810 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 17th November 2010 commencing at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 9.40pm.

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