

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2011, COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillors I. Munro-Price (Chair), Mrs S. Bradley, Mrs J. Collinge, R. Denton-White, R. Hughes, Miss A. Munro, T. Munro, D. Symes, Mrs S. West and R. Wild.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. Chris Briggs (Mayor's Chaplain). One member of the public arrived at about 8.10pm, but left a few minutes later.

1940 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

1941 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors L. Ames, Mrs P. McCartney, Mrs E. Munro-Price and T. Woodcock.

1942 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Symes declared a personal interest in the item on grants (minute 1948[a]) and Cllr. Ian Munro-Price an interest in fly-posting on New Road (minute 1966).

1943 – OPEN FORUM

a) Public Half-Hour

No members of the public were present.

b) Police Question Time

Cllr. Tim Munro pointed out that the Police were accountable to elected members and requested that the Clerk write to the Chairman of the Police Authority about the absence of a Police spokesman at these meetings.

The Chair asked if any members had questions they wished to be submitted.

Cllr. Collinge commented that the Police were committing additional resources to Castletown at present because of an increase in criminal damage.

Cllr. Tim Munro requested the last quarterly crime statistics for Underhill that were available, together with the Police targets for the area.

1944 – TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

a) Meeting Held on 13th July 2011

Minute 1929 – Mobile Phones

Cllr. Tim Munro said that in para 3 his amendment did not include the words, "as a mark of respect for the Chair and other Councillors." This was accepted. He also complained that the final resolution had been abbreviated. The Clerk conceded that it should have been written in full. Cllr. Munro went on to say

that in his recollection the words, “as a mark of respect for the Chair and other Councillors,” had been deleted from the final resolution. This was not accepted. The resolution reads, “that all mobile phones be turned off at Town Council and other Committee meetings, as a mark of respect for the Chair and other Councillors. Switching a mobile device to flight mode is considered an acceptable way of limiting its ability to ring and vibrate.”

With these changes the minutes of the meeting were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

b) Special Meeting Held on 27th July 2011

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

1945 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

a) Meeting Held on 13th July 2011

i) Minute 1922 – Co-option of Members

Cllr. Tim Munro asked whether the Borough had responded to the Town’s follow-up to the letter of complaint. The Clerk said its Chief Executive had replied and Cllr. Munro requested a copy of that letter.

ii) Minute 1930, para 2 – Weymouth Town Centre Roadworks

Cllr. Collinge asked concerning the progress of the scheme.

Cllr. Tim Munro replied that the SCOOT system was now operating and the situation being monitored. Cllr. Denton-White queried why apparently only about three vehicles at a time seemed to be getting through the traffic lights at the bottom of Boot Hill. Cllr. Munro answered that there was an intention to discourage traffic from turning right there, although again data was still being collected.

b) Meeting Held on 31st July 2011

There were no matters arising.

1946 – TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

1947 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price advised members that he had received a request from Portland Community Partnership for a financial contribution towards the cost of producing Island maps. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Finance & Projects Committee.

1948 – FINANCE & PROJECTS COMMITTEE, 1ST JUNE 2011

a) Minute 1095 – Council Grants

The recommendation, that applications from small organisations should not be refused at first sift, but that the Council should seek and request further information, was **DEFEATED**.

b) Minute 1099 – Fortuneswell Building Improvements

RESOLVED – that the Council not make a contribution to the improvements programme, but instead encourage improvements by grant applications.

1949 – 2012, MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP, 3RD AUGUST 2011

a) Minute 801 – The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

Members discussed the recommendation that Jubilee Field and New Ground be put forward as candidates for the Challenge. It appeared that New Ground is partly owned by the Borough and partly in private ownership.

It was noted that the Borough was pursuing a request for an area at the Grove to be considered. Cllr. Ian Munro-Price was concerned that the Town and Borough might duplicate applications.

The motion from the 2012 Partnership commending Jubilee Field and New Ground for the Challenge was **DEFEATED**.

RESOLVED – that Town Council write to the Borough Council, requesting that the following four sites be added to their application: Jubilee Field, New Ground, Royal Manor playing fields and Sweethill Lane playing field.

b) Minute 802 – Portland: Island in Peril

RESOLVED – that the Council should support the Island in Peril project and inform the Director of the Dorset Wildlife Trust to that effect.

1950 – FINANCE & PROJECTS COMMITTEE, 10TH AUGUST 2011

a) Minute 1105(b) – 2011/12 Financial Report to 31st July 2011

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted.

b) Minute 1106 – 2012 Medallions

RESOLVED – that an updated costing be obtained and passed to Cllrs. Bradley and Collinge, who will then proceed to obtain sponsors for the project.

c) Minute 1107 – Portland Flag

Cllr. Hughes reported that he had not yet had the opportunity to speak to Flying Colours about the possibility of a commission.

Cllr. Tim Munro said he had spoken to John Parker of DAPTC and disagreed with his views on the Council's ability to sell flags etc. to the public. He thought it could be done so on the basis of supporting economic development and tourism on Portland.

Both recommendations from Finance & Projects Committee to negotiate commissions with suppliers were **DEFEATED**.

d) Minute 1108 – Interaction of the Town Council with Portland Community Partnership and Revive

The original recommended motion to give general support to these organisations was **DEFEATED**.

RESOLVED – that Portland Town Council should work in partnership with Revive Portland and Portland Community Partnership to the benefit of Portland.

e) Minute 1109 – Portland Town Plan

Cllr. Denton-White said a new Town Plan was needed, rigorous and carried out with proper consultation of organisations and individuals on the Island.

Cllr. Tim Munro thought it was a job for the Portland Community Partnership, the Partnership consulting and producing a plan for the Town Council to approve.

(Cllr. Denton-White left the meeting at 8.20pm.)

RESOLVED – that the Town Council support Portland Community Partnership in the preparation and production of a new Town Plan for Portland and advise the Partnership to the effect.

1951 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

RESOLVED - that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2607 – 2621) in the sum of £2,847.10 including VAT be authorised for payment.

b) 2011/2012 Financial Report to 31ST August 2011

Cllr. Tim Munro queried the amount of twelve pounds already allocated to Projects expenditure and the fact that there had been no charge yet to the Elections budget.

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted.

1952 – MAJOR PLANNING DEVELOPMENTS

Cllr. Tim Munro took issue with the decision of the Planning Committee at its meeting on 22nd June 2011. He argued in line with Leiston Town Council that a small council should not have to bear the cost of an independent assessment when a large development was being considered.

RESOLVED – that the Council support parts 1 and 2 of the Leiston resolution, namely, (1) That any applicant or representatives of any applicant who submits such an application that will have a significant effect on an area must, if requested by the Town or Parish Council attend a meeting of (i) that Council to answer questions from elected councillors; and (ii) a Town Meeting, should one be duly called, to answer questions from all electors. (2) That any application who submits such an application that will have a significant effect on an area must, if requested by the Town or Parish Council, or a Town Meeting, pay for the Council or Meeting to get an independent assessment carried out as to how the proposed development will affect the sustainability of the local communities.

1953 – PORTLAND FAIR, 2011

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price reported on the recent meeting with the Fair operators. The contract amount has to remain the same for one more year. However it was agreed the Fair would open two days earlier on Tuesday, 25th October, for which the operations would pay the Council an additional £250. This was approved.

Cllr. Tim Munro said he understood from officers at the Borough the Town does not currently have all the necessary legal permissions for holding the Fair. The Clerk agreed to check and report back to Cllr. Munro.

1954 – PORTLAND UNDERHILL LIBRARY

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** – that should a community proposal come forward to run a library in Underhill the Town Council would support it. At present the Town Council does not wish to respond at this time to the letter from Debbie Ward on behalf of the County Library Service.

1955 – PORTLAND ACADEMY

It was felt that there was a lack of definite information about the Academy and therefore it was agreed not to take any action at present.

1956 – OLYMPIC BANNERS

Members were generally in favour of the banners that had been trialled through the Island and agreed that no further response was necessary for the time being.

1957 – LOCAL POLICING OF THE OLYMPICS

The Clerk presented his written report and it was agreed to invite Inspector Jenkins to give a presentation at the January meeting of the Council.

1958 – PORTLAND FLAGS

Cllr. Hughes reported verbally on the first meeting of the Flags Working Group. It was accepted that there was a need for another meeting of the Working Group before further decisions were taken.

1959 – DAPTC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The motions were discussed in turn and the Council **RESOLVED** the following conclusions:-

- a) Beaminster Town Council – Mapping of Utilities – Support
- b) Arne Parish Council – Use of Paper and Electronic Copies – No Opinion
- c) Iwerne Minster Parish Council – Planning Appeal Law – No Opinion
- d) Chideock Parish Council – Planning Violation – Support
- e) Chideock Parish Council – SATNAV Guidance to Heavy Vehicles – Support
- f) St. Leonard's & St. Ives Parish Council – Costs Arising from Travellers – No Opinion
- g) Child Okeford Parish Council – North Dorset Development Control – No Opinion

The Council agreed that its representatives exercise their discretion in respect of (f) and that the other six decisions be taken as mandatory.

Cllr. Tim Munro reported that there had been little response to the Mineral Strategy consultation and therefore the County had embarked on a series of roadshows.

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price said an Olympic transport workshop had been held recently at the Heights Hotel to discuss issues and dispel misconceptions such as that the Games would require people to have tickets to get on and off the Island.

Further to that Cllr. Munro informed members that the Olympic transport package would now be handled by the County Council rather than LOCOG.

Cllr. Collinge was told there would not be a charge for guide dogs on the park and ride service from Mount Pleasant.

1961 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

There was no comment on the DAPTC report submitted.

1962 – APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES RESOLVED – that Cllr. Denton-White be appointed to the outstanding vacancy for a DAPTC representative.

1963 – NEW LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

It was agreed that Cllr. McCartney should represent the Council at the forthcoming consultation event.

1964 – DEFRA CONSULTATION ON VILLAGE GREENS

Cllr. Tim Munro advised that registering a plot of land could be employed to prevent its use for building developments, but it had to be proved that the land had been used for recreation for the past twenty years.

It was agreed not to make any response.

1965 – BRITAIN IN BLOOM

Cllr. Collinge spoke in admiration of the floral displays at Wareham, much of it sponsored. Cllr. Tim Munro suggested the Council might work in concert with the Borough. The Clerk was asked to investigate.

1966– FORWARD PLAN

From the Chair Cllr. Ian Munro-Price introduced the item by saying that despite the long agenda several other matters had not been included. Therefore he wanted the Council to assess how best to deal with them.

In brief it was decided as follows:-

Co-options to Council – Review of Procedures: November Council
Dorset Police Enquiry Office Review: November Council
Fly-Posting on New Road: Clerk to contact the Borough
Fortuneswell Post Office – Future Possibilities: November Council
Portland Carnival – Presentation: January Council
Telephone Services – Alternative Business Proposal: Finance &
Projects
West Weares – Deleted from list

1967 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is due to take place on
Wednesday, 16th November 2011 commencing at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 10.00pm.

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