

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE & PROJECTS COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2010

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk) and one member of the general public.

1015 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. Munro, D. Thurston and Mrs S. West.

1016 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

1017 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH AUGUST 2010

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

1018 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

No matters were raised.

1019 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

It was proposed by Cllr. Paisley, seconded by Cllr. Collinge and **RECOMMENDED** – that the sum of £50 be paid to the Royal British Legion.

It was proposed by Cllr. Collinge, seconded by Cllr. Hughes and **RECOMMENDED** – that the payment to Dorset County Council for a town sign not be made.

It was proposed by Cllr. Paisley, seconded by Cllr. Bradley and **RECOMMENDED** – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2452 – 2454 and 2458 - 2470) in the revised sum of £2,307.4 including VAT be authorised for payment.

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

In presenting the report to the Committee the Clerk said that Dorset County Council had now supplied a grant of £10,000 for the town lengthsman. This led to a discussion of the process of considering the various facets of a lengthsman being appointed and operating on the Island.

RECOMMENDED – that the Lengthsman Working Group should report to the Finance & Projects Committee, which would make a generous allocation of time to consider its findings.

(It is submitted by the Clerk that the business of the Committee under this agenda item was the financial report provided and therefore under Standing Order 18 the above recommendation was not competent business.)

It was proposed by Cllr. Paisley, seconded by Cllr. Bradley and **RECOMMENDED** – that the report be accepted.

1020 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

It was agreed that agenda item 7 be taken ahead of item 6.

1021 – COUNCIL GRANTS, 2010/11

It was proposed by Cllr. Charlton, seconded by Cllr. Denton-White and **RECOMMENDED** – that the Boscawen Lifesaving & Rescue Club be asked to provide a typed copy of their audited accounts.

Mr David Symes then gave presentation on behalf of Portland United Youth Football Club.

It was proposed by Cllr. Charlton, seconded by Cllr. Denton-White and **RECOMMENDED** – that Portland United Youth Football Club be awarded a grant of £250.

1022 – FAIRFIELD CENTRE

The Committee considered Portland Community Partnership's request for financial support. It was proposed by Cllr. Collinge, seconded by Cllr. Charlton and **RECOMMENDED** – that a letter be sent to the Partnership, advising them to apply for a grant next year through the Council's standard procedure.

1023 – TOWN CRIER UNIFORM

From the Chair, Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price reported on the latest meeting of the Town Crier Working Group, in particular a recommended colour changes to the Crier's uniform: green coat with blue facings, black breeches and green waistcoat. A cloak had also been requested for inclement weather. It was anticipated that the total cost of the uniform would be less than £450.

It was proposed by Cllr. Charlton, seconded by Cllr. Denton-White and **RECOMMENDED** – that the Working Group's suggestions for the colours of the uniform, a cloak and anticipated ceiling cost of £450 for the uniform be accepted.

1024 – FINANCE & PROJECTS COMMITTEE

There was a difference of opinion whether the Committee as currently constituted was able to pass resolutions or only make recommendations. The Clerk advised members that with no agreed terms of reference in place the Committee could only make recommendations.

(Cllr. Hughes left the meeting at 7.55pm.)

Members considered in turn the paragraphs of the Committee Terms of Reference agreed on 21st January 2004. The following alterations were **RECOMMENDED** –

Paragraph 1 (proposed by Cllr. Denton-White, seconded by Cllr. Paisley) – “To give initial consideration to and make recommendations...” – Delete “initial” and replace “recommendations” with “decisions.”

Paragraph 2 (proposed by Cllr. Denton-White, seconded by Cllr. Ian Munro-Price) – “...including Tout Quarry, Cheynes (sic) Weares Viewing Area, the Chiswell Earthworks Sculpture at West Weares and Portland Fair;” – Delete “Tout Quarry” and “and,” add “Town Lengthsman and Town Crier” at end, repunctuate.

(Cllr. Gosling left the meeting at 8.10pm.)

Paragraph 3 (proposed by Cllr. Paisley, seconded by Cllr. Denton-White) – “To review and make recommendations...” – Replace “recommendations” with “decisions.”

Paragraph 4 (proposed by Cllr. Charlton, seconded by Cllr. Duncan) – “To receive regular reports on Town Council initiatives, including the Vital Villages Initiative and the Golden Jubilee Gateway...” – Delete “including the Vital Villages Initiative and the Golden Jubilee Gateway.”

Paragraph 5 (proposed by Cllr. Denton-White, seconded by Cllr. Duncan) – Retain unchanged.

Paragraph 6 (proposed by Cllr. Charlton, seconded Cllr. Bradley) – “...the precept to be levied on Weymouth & Portland Borough Council” – Replace “on” with “by.”

Paragraph 7 (proposed by Cllr. Bradley, seconded by Cllr. Ian Munro-Price) – Retain unchanged.

Paragraph 8 (proposed by Cllr. Charlton, seconded by Cllr. Bradley) – Retain unchanged.

Paragraph 9 (proposed by Cllr. Charlton, seconded by Cllr. Denton-White) – “...notices of application relating to justices (sic) licences, public entertainment licences, indoor sports licences etc...” – Replace “justices licences, public entertainment licences, indoor sports licences etc” with “licences.”

Add new Paragraph 10 (proposed by Cllr. Denton-White, seconded by Cllr. Collinge) – “To consider and make recommendations or decisions as appropriate on urgent matters where the timescale does not allow it to go to the full Town Council.”

1025 – FINANCIAL MATTERS, CONTINUED

a) Franking Machine

It was proposed by Cllr. Duncan, seconded by Cllr. Bradley and **RECOMMENDED** – that no action be taken. The Assistant Town Clerk was thanked for his work on the report.

b) Internet Account

It was noted that the Government intends phasing out payments by cheque and will make suitable arrangements for all local councils to make payments instead by electronic transfer.

It was proposed by Cllr. Ian Munro-Price, seconded by Cllr. Duncan and **RECOMMENDED** – that no action be taken for the time being.

1026 – STONE BENCHES IN UNDERHILL

Cllr. Paisley advised that it was necessary to wait until the Officers’ Field housing development was completed before siting the second bench.

It was proposed by Cllr. Duncan, seconded by Cllr. Charlton that the matter be deferred to the first Committee meeting in the New Year.

1027 – 2012 MEDALLIONS

It was agreed that the item be deferred to the next meeting.

1028 – ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOMMODATION

No report on possible alterations had been received from the Borough Council.

1029 – PORTLAND FLAG

Members debated whether the Council had a legal basis for reselling flags. Cllr. Charlton referred to correspondence with the County Council about the arrangements for recycling.

It was proposed by Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price, seconded by Cllr. Collinge and **RECOMMENDED** – that the Council make multiple purchase of flags to resell to the public, having settled the legal requirements and set up any necessary tendering and resale processes.

1030 – 900 YEARS TAPESTRIES

Members expressed views about the medium-term uncertainty attached to the Council's accommodation. It was proposed by Cllr. Paisley, seconded by Cllr. Bradley and **RECOMMENDED** – that no action be taken for the time being to hang the recently framed tapestries at the Council Offices.

1031 – RED TELEPHONE BOXES

Members were concerned about the maintenance implications and whether the value of preserving a kiosk merited the cost involved.

It was proposed by Cllr. Charlton, seconded by Cllr. Paisley and **RECOMMENDED** – that no action be taken in response to the BT e-mail about a telephone box on Grove Road.

1032 – PROJECTS AND OTHER ISSUES (by exception)

a) Town Council Website

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price outlined the points arising from the last meeting of the Website Working Group. These included seeking approval for a joint venture in developing the site, a Portland events diary, a facility to sell Council goods and a social element. Possible partners were suggested.

The Clerk was asked to find details regarding sponsorship of the website and bring them to the next meeting of the Committee. Cllr. Ian Munro-Price undertook to sound out possible sponsors.

b) Youth Council

Cllrs. Elspie Munro-Price and Duncan were due to meet shortly to discuss a way forward.

1033 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised members that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday, 15th December 2010, commencing at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.

Signed Dated
(Chair)