

## PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

### FINANCE & PROJECTS COMMITTEE

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2011

**PRESENT:** Councillors R. Hughes (Chair), L. Ames, Mrs S. Bradley, Mrs J. Collinge, Miss A. Munro, T. Munro, D. Symes, Mrs S. West and R. Wild

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk) and seven members of the public.

#### **1112 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. R. Denton-White, Mrs P. McCartney, Mrs E. Munro-Price and I. Munro-Price.

#### **1113 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Three Councillors declared a prejudicial interest in the item on Grants, Cllrs. Ames and Collinge in respect of First Dorset Credit Union and Cllr. Symes Portland United Youth Football Club.

#### **1114 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2011**

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

#### **1115 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING**

##### **Minute 1104(b) – Dorset Library Service**

Cllr. Tim Munro informed members that a further debate on the future of the Library Service would be held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

#### **1116 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

##### **a) Royal British Legion**

The Chair took this item ahead of the other two sub-items. It was proposed by Cllr. Ames, seconded by Cllr. Collinge and **RESOLVED** – that a donation of £50 be made to the Royal British Legion in return for the provision of a Remembrance Service wreath.

##### **b) Payments for Authorisation**

Cllr. Tim Munro queried the wording of the goods and services provided under cheque reference 2630 and suggested it should read "...for the purchase of a screwdriver."

He also expressed reservations about the payment to the Borough for conducting the Town Council election in Underhill in May. Cllr. Tim Munro said that the arrangement is that the Town Council does not share the costs, but is only liable to pay the surplus.

It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro, seconded by Cllr. West and **RESOLVED** – that the payment of the invoice referred to above be withheld for the time being and that further explanation and cost breakdown be sought from the Borough.

**RESOLVED** – that with the deletion of cheque reference 2637 the revised schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2622 – 2636 and 2638) in the sum of £2,860.33 including VAT be authorised for payment.

## **b) 2011/12 Financial Report to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

It was proposed by Cllr. Collinge, seconded by Cllr. West and **RESOLVED** – that the report be accepted.

(Cllr. Ames, Collinge and Symes withdrew from the Chamber. This rendered the meeting inquorate.)

### **1117 – COUNCIL GRANTS, 2011/12**

The item began with a discussion concerning procedure. The Clerk sought to remind members that such debates to award grants were normally carried out in private session. Cllr. Tim Munro said there was no need for secrecy. The discussion continued in public.

The Clerk raised the issue of grant application from 1<sup>st</sup> Weston Brownies. He gave an opinion that it did not comply with the Council's grant regulations, which the Mayor and Chair of Finance & Projects Committee concurred with. However it did comply with national regulations for grants.

It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro, seconded by Cllr. Amanda Munro and **RECOMMENDED** – that the application from 1<sup>st</sup> Weston Brownies be considered at the next meeting.

The presentations having been made and considered, it was proposed by Cllr. West, seconded by Cllr. Bradley and **RECOMMENDED** – that the following allocation of grant funds be made:-

First Dorset Credit Union - £150  
Island of Portland Heritage Trust - £250  
Island Play - £500  
Portland Gig Rowing Club - £200  
Portland United Youth Football Club - £250  
Royal Manor Theatre Company - £75

(Cllrs. Ames, Collinge and Symes rejoined the meeting, rendering it quorate again.)

### **1118 – BUSINESS RATES**

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild, recommended by Cllr. Collinge, that the Council support the adopted NALC policy on business rates and write to the local MP to that effect. The motion was lost on the casting vote of the Chair.

### **1119 – DAY CARE AND VOCATIONAL SERVICES**

Cllrs. Tim Munro and Ames declared a prejudicial interest by virtue of taking part in a discussion on the subject in another council. They did not withdraw from the meeting however. [It is the Clerk's view that the two members did not have a prejudicial interest in this respect.]

It was proposed by Cllr. Hughes, seconded by Cllr. West, and **RESOLVED** – that the Council did not agree with County Option1. No opinion was expressed on Options 2 and 3.

### **1120 – TELEPHONE AND INTERNET SERVICES**

After discussion of the Assistant Clerk's report it was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro, seconded by Cllr. Symes and **RESOLVED** – that the offer to provide telephone and internet services from Comms UK be accepted.

### **1121 – ISLAND MAPS**

Members were keen that the Town Council obtained publicity for itself on the maps in return for the provision of financial support.

It was proposed by Cllr. Collinge, seconded by Cllr. West and **RESOLVED** – that the Council give £300 from the projects budget to support Portland Community Partnership's production costs and request sight of the draft for the next print run of the maps to approve the necessary publicity for the Council.

### **1122 – DIAMOND JUBILEE, 2012**

#### **a) Beacon**

The Clerk passed on information from Cllr. Margaret Leicester that that the Verne prison had built a beacon for the last Jubilee event. He was asked to investigate this further.

#### **b) Island Events**

Cllr. Tim Munro criticised the Clerk for wanting to go to a meeting at the Borough concerning plans to celebrate the Jubilee, when Cllr. Bradley as Deputy Mayor was already attending.

It was proposed by Cllr. Ames, seconded by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that the Clerk attend the Jubilee events meeting.

The initiative from Katy Pascoe of Island Community Action was welcomed.

### **1123 – FUTURE OF FINANCE & PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

Members considered the report by the Clerk, in particular two possible courses of action. Cllr. Tim Munro explained that the Committee had been set up initially to facilitate the regular monthly approval of payments.

It was proposed by Cllr. Ames, seconded by Cllr. Symes and **RECOMMENDED** – that the Finance & Projects Committee be disbanded, additional Town Council meetings take place in February, April, August, October and December to compensate and that Standing Orders be amended accordingly, the matter to be brought to the next Town Council meeting.

### **1124 – 2012 MEDALLIONS**

Cllrs. Bradley and Collinge reported that they are in the process of gathering sponsorship. The item was then deferred to the next meeting of the Town Council.

### **1125 – PORTLAND FLAG**

The Clerk was asked to clarify with DAPTC and the Borough under what circumstances the Council can sell flags and other items.

**1126 – PROVISION OF GRIT BINS**

The list of eleven sites for grit bins recommended by the 2012, Marine & Environment Partnership was agreed with the deduction of Weare Close, which already has a bin, and the addition of Old Hill.

Yellow or green bins were favoured, bearing the Council logo.

It was **RESOLVED** – that up to £2,000 be spent on bins and securing them to a base. Cllr. Wild was requested to visit each of the sites, recommend a suitable size and shape for each location and prioritise the order of purchase.

**1127 – PROJECTS AND OTHER ISSUES (by exception)**

No items were raised.

**1128 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair advised members that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011, commencing at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 10.25pm.

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