

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 3rd APRIL 2013

PRESENT: Councillor R. Wild (Chair), together with Sue Lees (Chesil Equestrian Centre), Philip George (Crown Estate), Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership), Hannah Sofaer (Portland Stone Quarry Trust) (from 7.10pm) and John Tweed (Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy).

IN ATTENDANCE: Pam Hamblin (Assistant Town Clerk).

925 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs R Barton and Mrs J Collinge, together with Charles Frampton (Portland Stone Quarry Trust) and Mr Bob Elliott (Quality Time Training). The meeting was technically inquorate, but in view of the numbers present, it seemed expedient to proceed.

926 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

927 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH FEBRUARY 2013

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

928 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

a) Minute 915 – Olympic Legacy

Mr Tweed asked that the meeting note that the Sailing Academy is not objecting to the Reef project but that he is in negotiation to ensure safeguards are in place. It was agreed that the following be noted: the Sailing Academy has not objected to the “Wreck to Reef” project. However the project will prevent sail racing taking place in a part of Weymouth Bay which has previously been used by ourselves and other clubs and we have therefore been seeking some safeguards in relation to our future racing in that vicinity.

b) Minute 918 – Parish Lengthsman

Cllr. Wild gave an update on the situation regarding the Lengthsman. The areas to be covered have been identified, land owners are to be ascertained and asked if they wish to contribute to the cost with the offer of their logo on the van. There are likely to be two employees working 17 hours per week each together or separately. The van could be either a redundant County Council vehicle, leased or a “man and van” hire arrangement.

c) Minute 920 – Proposed Stopping Up of Footpath 34 at Perryfield Quarry

Sue Lees reported that she had been informed the application to stop up Footpath 34 had been granted.

929 – COASTGUARD AND HELICOPTER SERVICE CLOSURES

John Tweed reported that a meeting had been set up by Richard Drax with regard to the Coastwatch and Helicopter Services, attended by the Transport Minister

Stephen Hammond, Alan Massey and Steve Davis, Portland Port. There are issues regarding refuelling at a civilian airport.

930 – OLYMPIC LEGACY

John Tweed reported that the Academy had set up “taster sessions” involving various sports over Easter. Unfortunately the weather had been very cold and fewer people had attended than hoped. However, Weymouth College is to expand its operations to include water sports, mountain biking and rock climbing to equip young people for a career in these fields.

Andy Matthews mentioned that meetings had taken place with regard to residual monies for the Harbourside and the Quarry Nature Trail to be used towards creating employment.

Hannah Sofaer explained that the workshops at the Drill Hall are being refurbished with the aim of funding traditional skills and traditions in new employment. They will be opened on 20 June 2013 with a performance by Royal Manor Arts College and she issued an open invitation for anyone to attend.

931 – PORTLAND BILL VISITOR CENTRE

Cllr. Wild reported that the Town Council has expressed an interest in taking this over, possibly with other organisations. The current lease ends in September. There followed discussion regarding the previous investment in video cameras on the site, whether it could be run as a business and if goods were to be sold could they be distinct and local.

There were no expressions of interest in direct involvement from the co-opted members present.

932 – JOINT MINERALS LOCAL PLAN CORE STRATEGY

Discussion took place with regard to the response of the Council to Chapter 10 – Portland Stone Extraction. It was **RECOMMENDED** – that comment No. 6 be amended to read “In cases of exhausted opencast quarries those with the authority and responsibility should seek to maximise their educational, research, tourism and cultural potential.”

933 – GRIT BINS AND WINTER MAINTENANCE

The Assistant Clerk reported that the four Town-purchased grit bins are in place and have been filled. The bins the Borough intended to buy for the Town cannot be located at present. There is also the likelihood that the County Council will charge for future supplies of grit. The Clerk is checking the situation with the Councils.

934 – FUEL PRODUCTION PLANT AT PORTLAND PORT

The original permission for the plant was for the use of palm oil. Discussion took place with regard to the temporary planning permission which has been granted for the melting of shredded tyres to make diesel fuel. This would take place in a sealed unit without emissions. Sue Lees commented that the price of palm oil has gone down, there is no government subsidy for the use of rubber and there have been health and safety issues in Germany, Italy and China with regard to the melting of rubber tyres. Andy Matthews offered to set up a question and answer if necessary.

935 – PARKING ON GRASS VERGES

Philip George had supplied information to Cllr Barton and he mentioned that there was likely to be a by-law preventing parking on verges. The meeting asked that the Town Clerk make further enquiries with the Councils.

936 AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)

d) Footpaths

Sue Lees mentioned complaints with regard to horse riding on the Island. There are no bridleways but horses are permitted to be ridden along some footpaths and they help to keep those paths clear by such use. Andy Matthews added that bridleways are linked to cycleways and cyclists can only use bridleways. Sue Lees advised that some byways had been opened in the Dorchester area to non-motorised traffic at a cost of around £500 each and she indicated that the British Horse Society would assist with any necessary work. She also said that English Heritage is considering opening the parts of the Coastal Path as bridleways. Andy Matthews added that this type of issue could be part of the Neighbourhood Plan

e) Dry-Stone Walling

Sue Lees mentioned that she had asked the Dry-Stone Walling Association if she could set up a Portland group. There are many walls in need of repair but they cannot be used as practice sites due to health and safety considerations. She herself had offered a field for members to use. Lyn Cooch is to prepare a report on dry-stone walls.

937 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised members that the next meeting of the Partnership would take place at the Council Offices on Wednesday, 5th June 2013, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.

Signed..... (Chair) Date.....