

## PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 2012, MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2012

**PRESENT:** Councillors R. Wild (Chair), Mrs S. Bradley, Mrs J. Collinge and R. Denton-White, together with Philip George (Crown Estate), Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institution), Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership) and Charles Frampton and Hannah Sofaer (Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk).

#### **864 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors R. Hughes, Mrs E. Munro-Price, I. Munro-Price and T. Woodcock, together with John Tweed (Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy).

#### **865– DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **866 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012 AND NOTES OF THE SCHEDULED MEETING FOR 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012**

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

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

##### **Minute 857 – Coastguard & Helicopter Service Closure**

It was established that there were a number of petitions circulating, paper and electronic. Cllr. Denton-White drew attention to the recent episode when eight separate life-threatening incidents involving the Portland helicopter had occurred on the same day.

#### **868 – 2012 OLYMPICS**

There was no discussion.

#### **869 – COASTGUARD AND HELICOPTER SERVICE CLOSURE**

During further debate it was **RESOLVED** – that a follow-up letter be sent to the minister, no reply having been received to the first. It was also agreed that this reply be sent in two to three weeks time, giving members the opportunity to contribute by sending their suggestions to the Clerk.

#### **870 – THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS CHALLENGE**

The Clerk was asked to circulate copies of the Borough's response on the subject and check whether a reply had been received from the HCA regarding the Jubilee Pillars field.

#### **871 – LEGACY TRAIL**

It was understood that a new design to mark the trail was being prepared.

### **872 – PORTLAND SEAFARERS SUPPORT**

Cllr. Wild announced a sale shortly to raise funds. He noted with approval that Rev. Tim Gomm was aiming to revive the Flying Angel locally and said care had to be taken to avoid duplication of effort by the respective missions.

Cllr. Wild also gave details of the last three crew members of Westwind II. The problems involving the vessel at Portland are now over, but another ship, the Terry Siete, had now come into the Port in similar circumstances.

### **873 – PUBLIC CONVENIENCES ON THE ISLAND**

Cllrs. Bradley and Collinge explained the details of the proposed agreement for reopening one of the public conveniences at Victoria Square. However up till now the Borough have refused to sell the building. Mr George pointed out that liability insurance would be needed should the public convenience come back into operation.

**RESOLVED** – to record a vote of thanks to Cllrs. Bradley and Collinge for the work they are doing in this respect.

### **874 – GRIT BINS**

It was proposed by Cllr. Denton-White and **RECOMMENDED** – that the Council buy a new grit bin to be located on Old Hill.

### **875 – COUNTY MINERALS CORE STRATEGY**

In the course of the discussion Mr Matthews drew attention to Portland's special place in mineral and historical terms, which might effect the terms of a reinstatement policy.

The following motions were **RECOMMENDED**:-

- 1) that the Minerals Core Strategy should take note of the Portland Neighbourhood Plan
- 2) that, subject to the above provision, the Council give general support to the Draft in relation to Portland stone extraction
- 3) that the use of mining for future stone extraction be welcomed
- 4) that concern is expressed that mining in areas so recommended in preference to opencast quarrying cannot be enforced
- 5) that the requirement to backfill mine voids should be reviewed at or near completion of a mining project. Redundant mines may have tourism or storage potential.
- 6) that in cases of exhausted opencast quarries, those with the responsibility seek to maximise their educational and cultural potential.

### **876 – COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN**

The Clerk reported that the Plan had been completed and issued. Mr Matthews noted that it contained some sensitive information and therefore should be treated circumspectly.

The Clerk pointed out that like all documents with a large data content it was liable to become outdated and therefore undertook to set up system by which it could be updated at regular intervals.

Cllr. Denton-White requested that the Council be formally notified of the completion. Responding to a question from Mr Matthews the Clerk agreed to seek an official response to the Plan from the Borough.

### **877 – COASTAL ACCESS – WEYMOUTH BAY**

The letter from Natural England was noted. Ms Sofaer questioned whether access was possible along the entire portion of the South West Coast Path referred to. Cllr. Wild said the sector through Portland Gas land was not open yet. He also agreed to clarify signage issues with the Portland Ranger.

### **878 – PORTLAND NCI STATION – QUEEN'S AWARD**

Mr Peters gave a report on recent events at the station. These included a second visit by the Princess Royal to mark the Queen's Award. The twenty-four hour camera had provided vital information in tracing the whereabouts of a vessel reported lost.

The Clerk was asked to arrange a visit by members to the station.

**RESOLVED** – that congratulations be offered to all involved in the operation of the Coastwatch station for winning the Queen's Award.

(Cllr. Collinge left the meeting at 9.00pm)

### **879 – STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)**

#### **b) Litter and Fly-Tipped Material**

Mr George called attention to the continuing prevalence of fly-tipping, some affecting Crown Estate land. Cllr. Wild commented that the environmental bodies only got involved if the waste was of a hazardous nature.

Mr Matthews revived the idea of a parish lengthsman as a way of combating fly-tipping. What emerged from the discussion was the idea of forming a consortium of interested parties which would jointly fund the provision of a lengthsman. Mr George suggested that the Court Leet might be interested in contributing to such a scheme. Mr Matthews offered to investigate other possible funding sources.

#### **c) Run-Down Areas**

Cllr. Denton-White praised Revive's efforts in improving the look of Chiswell and Fortuneswell, which appeared to have had knock-on effects in the area.

**RESOLVED** – that the Council write to Yvonne Beven to record its gratitude to Revive.

### **880 – ISSUES RAISED BY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS**

Ms Sofaer said there had been a large attendance for the Trust's "Walk Through Time." £250,000 had been raised for the building extension, which was due for completion in September. She advised that there would be a repeat performance on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and gave notice of other events.

**881 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair advised members that the next meeting of the Partnership would take place at the Council Offices on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.25 pm.

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