

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH DECEMBER 2012

PRESENT: Councillors R. Wild (Chair), Mrs S. Bradley and R. Hughes, together with Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership) and John Tweed (Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy).

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk).

897 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs J. Collinge, R. Denton-White, Miss A. Munro, T. Munro, Mrs E. Munro-Price, I. Munro-Price and Mrs S. West, together with Philip George (Crown Estate). Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institution), and Charles Frampton and Hannah Sofaer (Portland Stone Quarry Trust). The meeting was technically inquorate.

898– DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

899 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD OCTOBER 2012

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

900 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

No matters were raised.

901 – COASTGUARD AND HELICOPTER SERVICE CLOSURES

It is accepted that the Coastguard service will eventually transfer from Weymouth as planned, but the campaign against withdrawal of the helicopter service continues. It is understood Richard Drax MP has invited the Minister of Transport to come to Portland in order to understand the situation better.

902 – CO-OPTED MEMBERS

The Clerk said he had raised this matter because co-opted members of the Partnership seemed to be unsure of their precise responsibilities, not least when it came to the question of voting rights. As he had noted in his report accredited representatives of the organisations involved in the Partnership had full voting rights on the Committee. At the same time they were expected to observe the Code of Conduct adopted by the Town Council in performance of their duties. The report was noted.

903 – OLYMPIC LEGACY

Mr Matthews said the Community Partnership was keen to be involved in developing a legacy. To this end they were trying to organise a Portland Festival in early August. It would be a series of events lasting a fortnight with Island villages organising their own events.

Cllr. Wild wondered if it could be coordinated with the National Archaeological Week with well-known personalities invited to attend.

Cllr. Hughes noted that the Harmonic Fields event had drawn 11,000 visitors.

Mr Tweed said that a visitor survey at the time of the Olympics had produced a very positive response with many coming to the Island for the first time intending to return. Cllr. Bradley added the encouraging feedback she had received from the Mayor’s Civic Day.

904 – TOURISM

Mr Matthews invited the Council to comment on the Community Partnership’s tourism strategy. The Clerk undertook to bring it to the attention of the Tourism Working Group if the members were not already aware of it.

905 – PORTLAND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES, 2012/13

Mr Matthews drew particular attention in the discussion document to the proposal for an Island Business Group. Such a group would be useful in responding to possible changes in business rates. He also highlighted the Partnership’s wish to work in conjunction with the Town Council.

Mr Matthews also referred to the “Narrowing the Gap” project, which was intended to re-energise the less flourishing areas of the Island. Borough officers were working with the Weymouth & Portland Partnership and other agencies to tackle issues and problems in a more focused way. Apparently money was available from central government to assist.

906 – STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)

c) Run-Down Areas

Mr Matthews noted that in collating photographs in connection with the Neighbourhood Plan East Weare Battery seemed to be in a neglected state.

Cllr. Hughes and Bradley commented on some of the Island roads being much in need of repair. Cllr. Bradley also mentioned that the site for the Olympic rings needed to be grassed over as a new Island attraction for visitors.

907 – ISSUES RAISED BY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Cllr. Wild drew attention to the possibility of a Christmas Day service for seafarers in the dockyard.

The Partnership expressed general delight in the news that the Princess Royal and her husband, Vice Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence, had agreed to become honorary watchkeepers at the Portland Coastwatch Station.

908 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised members that the next meeting of the Partnership would take place at the Council Offices on Wednesday, 6th February 2013, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 7.55 pm.

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