

## **PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 2012, MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2011**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs S. Bradley (Chair), Mrs J. Collinge, M. Gosling, R. Hughes and Mrs S. West, together with Philip George (Crown Estate), Robert Sansom (HM Coastguard and Maritime Coastal Agency), Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institution), Lyn Cooch (Portland Ranger), Charles Frampton and Hannah Sofaer (Portland Stone & Quarry Trust), Bob Elliott (Quality Time Training) and John Tweed (Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy.)

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

#### **748 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor R. Denton-White and D. Thurston, together with Sue Lees (Windmill Stables.)

#### **749 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **750 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2010**

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

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

There were no matters arising.

#### **752 – 2012 OLYMPICS**

Mr Tweed informed members of public drop-in sessions being held in the locality about the Olympics, in particular one being held at Easton Methodist Church on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2011 from 12.00 to 3.00 pm and 5.30 to 7.30 pm.

He outlined the programme of major events taking place by the Sailing Academy during the year. These included a test event in the first two weeks of August with the same number of competitors as the Olympics itself.

Regarding the 2012 Games, it was now intended to provide a live site on Weymouth Beach for up to 25,000 people free of charge. Meanwhile in the Nothe Gardens there would be ticketed viewing with an “enhanced atmosphere” with charges between £20 and £55.

LOCOG was in the process of recruiting its volunteers, selecting them next month. Locally a further 650 or so would be needed to help guide visitors. Meanwhile there would be “look and feel” branding for the sailing events, including the Island up to Easton Square. As regards the torch relay no announcement had been made yet about the inclusion of Portland.

Mr Tweed also mentioned the intended sale of 50p Olympic sailing coins showing an outline of the Island and he circulated a sample among the members.

Answering a question from Cllr. West, Mr Tweed said he had no knowledge yet whether the Council might be permitted to fly an Olympic flag.

Mr Elliott reported that the Olympic authorities had been consulting locally on the extent to which Osprey Quay businesses could continue their operations.

### **753 – PROVISION OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES ON THE ISLAND**

Cllr. Collinge complimented the Borough Council on its detailed response to the Town's survey, including the promise of action to remedy defects, though she noted little had been written about redecorations.

Mr Tweed raised the possibility of the YOI being involved in a painting project on one or more of the toilets.

**RESOLVED** – that the Clerk pursue the suggestion of a YOI redecoration project.

### **754 – CHESIL COVE SEA WALL**

There was general approval for the proposed remediation works with the hope expressed that they could be completed within the next eighteen months.

**RESOLVED** – that the Clerk write to indicate the Partnership's approval.

(Cllr. Bradley left the meeting at 7.30 pm. Cllr. Collinge took the Chair.)

### **755 – GRIT BINS**

Members shared their experiences of the effects of the recent cold weather spell. Among the questions arising were, where should grit bins be located on the Island, how many bins was the County Council prepared to supply and, if Town Council funds could not provide a bin for a specific site, might local people club together to buy their own?

It was agreed that maps should be sent to Partnership members to help establish likely sites for grit bins and that enquiries be made about County provision, together with the feasibility of self-help schemes.

### **756 – COASTAL CCTV CAMERAS**

Mr Peters advised the Partnership that Trinity House had allowed Coastwatch to place a CCTV camera on top of the lighthouse. A signal would be transmitted back to the Lookout, enabling the staff to watch over the Inshore Passage. The Coastwatch Institution had been unable to secure financial help in the UK, but a Dutch company had agreed to sponsor half the cost and watchkeepers had raised the remaining £10,000.

### **757 – NATIONAL COASTGUARD CLOSURES**

Mr Sansom pointed out that he was bound by a civil code of conduct and therefore could not offer a personal opinion on the proposed closures, but he ventured to state that the Echo had so far give a reasonably balanced account of the issues.

He went on to say that the local helicopter service had already been privatised and would continue. A consultation on the coastguard proposals was being conducted online and any person or organisation with an interest could reply.

It was agreed that the Clerk should respond in outline on behalf of the Partnership, regretting the closure of the coastguard station and noting local features involved. These comprised the heavy volume of traffic, the impending Olympics, the difficult nature of the waters around Portland and the immediate availability of local knowledge.

Mr Peters drew attention to a public meeting about the closures due to take place at All Saints on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

(Mr Elliott left the meeting at 8.15 pm.)

**758 – PORTLAND HEIGHTS: DISABLED ACCESS**

Mr George commented on the difficulty of access for all pedestrians, which he thought merited some improvements.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Pepperell, expressing the Partnership’s support and contact the County highways department to request a site visit in the first instance.

**759 – MEMBERSHIP OF GREEN SPACE SOUTH WEST**

Mrs Cooch thought it likely that the Borough Council was already a member.

It was agreed not to pursue membership.

**760 – STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)**

No issues were raised.

**761 – ISSUES RAISED BY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS**

Mrs Cooch publicised a Jurassic Coast roadshow to be held at the Community 2000 premises on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

**762 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair advised members that the next meeting of the Partnership would take place at the Council Offices on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011, commencing at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

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