

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY 2013

PRESENT: Councillors R. Wild (Chair), Mrs R. Barton and Mrs J. Collinge, together with Philip George (Crown Estate), Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institution), Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership), Charles Frampton and Hannah Sofaer (from 7.25pm) (Portland Stone Quarry Trust) and Bob Elliott (Quality Time Training).

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

909 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs S. Bradley and R. Denton-White, together with Robert Sansom (HMC, MCA). The meeting was technically inquorate.

910 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

911 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH DECEMBER 2012

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

912 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

No matters were raised.

913 – COASTGUARD AND HELICOPTER SERVICE CLOSURES

Cllr. Collinge advised that the subject had been raised in Parliament.

914 – CHANGE IN FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The Chair spoke to the short report by the Clerk, saying that from May Partnership meetings would take place at the reduced frequency of once a quarter. Cllr. Collinge pointed out that there was less urgency now the Olympics had finished.

915 – OLYMPIC LEGACY

Mr Matthews had supplied an additional information paper from PCP detailing the Borough's Olympic Legacy/Economic Development strategies and priorities. Cllr. Barton in her work for the Community Partnership is leading on producing an equivalent for the Island.

Mr Elliott spoke at length about the effect of the Olympics on the businesses based around Osprey Quay. Some of them had suffered significant financial loss over the summer months and were now struggling as a result. Curiously the only business that received financial compensation for losses sustained was the Sailing Academy itself.

Mr Elliott went on to discuss the "Wreck to Reef" project designed to stimulate diving activities locally and the associated businesses. Sadly, he said, the Academy was making objects to the plan.

From the Chair Cllr. Wild suggested that O'Three might be given an opportunity to give a presentation on their efforts to improve local diving facilities.

(Mr Elliott left the meeting at 7.55pm).

916 – SOUTH WEST COASTAL PATH

Regarding the closure of the Coastal Path from Blacknor to Tout Cllr. Wild said the Portland Ranger had told him it would remain closed until the weather had improved significantly, giving the ground opportunity to dry out.

917 – CONSULTATION ON STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN

Mr Frampton commented how impenetrable he had found the wording of the Statement. Hannah Sofaer provided some helpful comments.

RECOMMENDED – that the Council comment on the Statement, particularly querying the timetable for the two stages of consultation and how people will be notified.

918 – PARISH LENGTHSMAN

Cllr. Wild summarised the history of the lengthsman project to date and the Council's stated intention to revive it in 2013/14. Unfortunately the Court Leet had recently decided against providing financial support for the project in the immediate future. One possibility under consideration was to hire a "man with a van" for six months and await further developments.

Closer communication with the public than that achieved by the Borough lengthsman was seen as an important factor.

919 – PROPOSED UPGRADE OF FOOTPATHS TO BRIDLEWAY, REF. 12/36

RECOMMENDED – NO OBJECTION, subject to the condition that any surface work is sympathetic to the surrounding neighbourhood and a request be made to give time to consult the Town Council.

920 – PROPOSED STOPPING UP OF FOOTPATH 34 AT PERRYFIELD QUARRY

RECOMMENDED – NO OBJECTION, subject to the advice of the Town Council footpaths and rights of way liaison officers and assuming the residents of Weston Street have been consulted, again requesting time to consult.

921 – PLACING OF DEFIBRILLATOR AT COASTWATCH STATION

Mr Peters supplied some of the detail. The defibrillator had cost £2,500, will be positioned outside of the station's secure compound and be available for public use twenty-four hours a day. It will complement another already operating in Fortuneswell. Samaritan's law will protect people using it from a legal point of view. Instructions are provided and no harm can be done with the equipment. The box is linked to the ambulance service. The coastwatch station supplies power to keep the defibrillator necessarily warm.

The Coastwatch people are also considering installing a 999 box use by the public and are looking for a sponsor.

922 – STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)

b) Litter and Fly-Tipped Material

Cllr. Collinge quoted the case of a Synergy property, the garden of which the tenants allowed to become a dump for fly-tipping. Synergy has now cleared the site.

Cllr. Wild notified Cllr. Barton of fly-tipping by the engine sheds. Cllr. Barton said there was a need for another Island Clean-up.

923 – ISSUES RAISED BY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

None were raised.

924 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised members that the next meeting of the Partnership would take place at the Council Offices on Wednesday, 3rd April 2013, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm.

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