

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 2012, MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8TH JUNE 2011

PRESENT: Councillors Mr R. Wild (Chair), Mrs S. Bradley, Mrs J. Collinge, R. Hughes and I. Munro-Price, together with Philip George (Crown Estate), Charles Frampton, P. Crabtree and Hannah Sofaer (Portland Stone & Quarry Trust).

IN ATTENDANCE: Samantha King (Assistant Town Clerk)

782 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors T. Munro, Mrs E. Munro-Price, D. Symes, Mrs S. West and T. Woodcock, together with Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institution), Robert Sansom (HM Coastguard), Lyn Cooch (Portland Ranger) and John Tweed (Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy).

783 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

784 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH APRIL 2011

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

785 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

a) Minute 771 – Grit Bins

Cllr. I. Munro-Price is chasing up an answer.

b) Minute 775 – Cheyne Weares Oil Spillage

Cllr. Collinge asked if Mr Richard Paisley had been in touch regarding this. The Assistant Clerk replied that she was not aware that he had been in touch.

c) Minute 778 – Membership of the Partnership

The Assistant Clerk will check with the Clerk whether Revive Portland and Portland Community Partnership have been added to the membership.

d) Minute 779 – Dry-Stone Walling

Hannah Sofaer said that the Trust were looking to implement a course in dry-stone walling at the Drill Hall, beginning in September.

Phillip George added that the Court Leet have been liaising with Lyn Cooch regarding financing the course.

786 – 2012 OLYMPICS

John Tweed's e-mail was read aloud to the members of the meeting.

Cllr. I. Munro-Price recently attended a presentation by Lord Coe outlining events to be held in Weymouth and Portland over the Olympic period. He will try to get a copy of the presentation for the Council.

Hannah Sofaer proposed a plan for a "Stone-Walk Through Time" exhibition and is looking to start fundraising for the event. Weymouth College will be involved. Cllr. Collinge also suggested loan of exhibits from Portland Museum. Mrs Sofaer is also

looking at providing exhibits outside the Drill Hall to attract children. She added that funding is being provided by “Chalk and Cheese.”

Cllr. Wild requested that Mrs Sofaer submit a written brief to the Council.

787 – NATIONAL COASTGUARD CLOSURES

This is being reviewed nationally and as yet there are no decisions to feed back.

788 – PROVISION OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES ON THE ISLAND

Cllrs. Collinge and Bradley are requesting that the toilets at Chiswell (behind the Blue Fish Café) be re-opened, as when Quiddles Café is closed their adjoining toilets also close, leaving no public toilet in the area.

More baby-changing facilities are required. Cllr. Collinge also pointed out that there is no disabled toilet in Fortuneswell.

789 – PROVISION OF DRILL HALL BUS STOP

Gone to County Council.

790 – CONFERENCE ON CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE MARITIME WATERS

No attendance of the conference to report back.

Cllr. Hughes added that he and other divers clean up the beach at Chesil Cove regularly. However, it is an ongoing problem of fishing line and other rubbish being washed up there, due to the nature of the winds and location of the cove. No further action to report at the moment.

791 – THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS CHALLENGE

As yet the council have not put forward any nominations. Cllr. Wild put forward two ideas:-

- 1) The triangle of land behind St. Peter’s Church. This was presented to the children of Portland by the Admiralty in the 1930’s. It is currently maintained by the YOI. Cllr. Wild proposed that a request be made to the Prison Service to nominate it for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields project.
- 2) Cllr. Wild proposed the play area at Augusta Road (owned by Geoff Smith) be nominated.

The play area at West Weares was also discussed as a possible nomination. Cllr. Ian Munro-Price said that the Borough had removed the play equipment as it had become rusty and dangerous.

Hannah Sofaer proposed that her “Walk Through Time” project also be nominated, as it focuses on wildlife. Again the landowner, Geoff Smith, would need to be in agreement.

792 – STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)

b) Litter and Fly-Tipped Material

Lyn Cooch usually contributes to these items but was not at the meeting, so nothing to add today.

However, Cllr. Wild raised the subject of fly-posting on the corner of New Road. The stones are re-used for messages each time, but sheets and boards are often left

there indefinitely. It seems to have become a tradition on Portland, but often ends up leaving a mess which isn't cleared away by those who leave the messages. To be put forward onto the agenda for the August meeting.

Regarding fly-tipping, it doesn't seem to be a big problem on the Island but is often used as the "easier option" due to the complicated rules for refuse collection and the local tip.

c) Run-Down Areas

Cllr. Hughes raised the subject of Hambro Road car park. The fence has fallen down and the area is generally looking unkept.

Mr Frampton added that there is no signage for Killicks Hill – must have fallen down.

Could both these items be reported to the Borough.

Hannah said that the "Portland Bois" graffiti is a problem when sprayed on stone. However, she was advised to ring the "cleansing section" at the Borough, as they have the correct chemical cleansers to clean off the paint.

d) Open Spaces, Hedgerows, Footpaths and Dry-Stone Walls

The County Council have taken over footpaths under Rights of Way. Weeds on pavements still seem to be an ongoing problem as the stronger weedkillers can no longer be used.

The weeds are actually pulling the wall down at Fortuneswell Bus Stop. This is the Borough's responsibility so, can this be reported to the Highways Section?

793 – ISSUES RAISED BY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price noted that the membership list is out of date. Please could this be updated before the next meeting.

Hannah informed the meeting that a TV series is being made on Railways to be screened in January 2012. Local volunteers Ralph Stone and Brian Otter were interviewed for the series by Michael Portillo who visited Portland recently and will be presenting the programme.

794 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 August 2011, commencing at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm.

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