

## PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 2012, MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2011

**PRESENT:** Councillors R. Wild (Chair), Mrs J. Collinge, R. Denton-White and R. Hughes, together with Councillor Dominic Lonsdale (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institution), Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership), Lyn Cooch (Portland Ranger), Charles Frampton and Hannah Sofaer (Portland Stone & Quarry Trust), Yvonne Beven (Revive Portland) and Bob Elliott (Quality Time Training).

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

#### **808 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors L. Ames, Mrs S. Bradley, Mrs P. McCartney, Miss A. Munro, T. Munro, Mrs Elspie Munro-Price, Ian Munro-Price, D. Symes, Mrs S. West and T. Woodcock, together with Philip George (Crown Estate), Robert Sansom (HM Coastguard/Marine & Coastguard Agency) and J. Tweed (Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy).

#### **809 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Lonsdale declared an interest in the National Coastguard Closures by virtue of working for the Maine & Coastguard Agency.

#### **810 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2011**

##### **a) Minute 797(a) – Public Conveniences on the Island**

Cllr. Collinge said she had not yet been able to obtain the keys for the public conveniences adjacent to Victoria Square. Mrs Beven told members that Revive was willing to repaint those in Fortuneswell.

##### **b) Minute 798 – Dry-Stone Walling**

Mrs Cooch said courses in building walls were being held in October and November. After some discussion it was **RECOMMENDED** – that Cllr. Wild as Chair of the 2012 Partnership should oversee the dry-stone wall courses as a Council project and that Mrs Cooch give a presentation on the extent of the need and how the Council could assist.

##### **c) Minute 802 – Portland: Island in Peril**

Answering a query, Mrs Cooch explained that this involved a five-year programme to rid the Island of cotoneaster encroaching on its footpaths. No formal response from the Dorset Wildlife Trust has been received yet.

#### **811 – 2012 OLYMPICS**

Mr Elliott said that his company had submitted a bid for the provision of RIB boats at the Games and notified members of the security arrangements that will be put in place.

Cllr. Collinge drew members' attention to a scheme to provide Olympic competitors with knitted cushions. She criticised the organisers for their unrealistic expectations.

Mr Elliott felt it was a case of "wanting something for nothing" and gave a marine example of the Olympic arrangements from his own experience.

### **812 – NATIONAL COASTGUARD CLOSURE**

Cllr. Lonsdale explained that the campaign against the closures was arguing that Weymouth and not Southampton should be the main centre along the South Coast. Mr Peters emphasised the importance of the local coastguard station for training the volunteers who man the Coastwatch lookout.

### **813 – 2012 OLYMPICS (Continued): STEERING GROUP UPDATE**

Mrs Beven said that the Look and Feel initiative for Fortuneswell sought planters rather than banners as a better long-term asset. It was hoped to include Castletown and Chiswell also.

Mrs Cooch said that an effort was being made to get more Cultural Olympiad events taking place on the Island and a report was going to County Council to that effect.

Dissatisfaction was expressed by members about the lack of reference to Portland in the Update, particularly regarding the Cultural Olympiad.

**RESOLVED** – that the Clerk write to Simon Williams, W&PBC, requesting more information on the Olympic torch relay, transport to the Island during the Games and the extent of the Cultural Olympiad.

**RECOMMENDED** – that a meeting be convened between Town Councillors, Borough group leaders and Portland Councillors, and senior officers to discuss the Olympic arrangements further.

It was also felt by members that, following the expression of support by the Town Council to give Revive and the Portland Community Partnership there needs to be a discussion as to how this may be achieved.

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

The Clerk said that he had received negative feedback from fellow Clerks about the value of the scheme, bearing in mind their experience of King George VI playing fields and the charitable status attached to them. He was asked to obtain more information from the Clerks and the Parks Manager at the Borough.

### **815 – RECRUITMENT OF COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS VOLUNTEERS AND VOLUNTEER RANGERS**

Mrs Cooch said that the County was responsible for the internal footpaths on the Island and was looking for help in providing uniforms and training for volunteers, who could then organise footpath management groups.

**RECOMMENDED** – that the Council's footpath liaison officer be involved in the organisation of these groups.

(Cllr. Lonsdale left the meeting at 8.45pm.)

### **816 – BROADBAND ON THE ISLAND**

The Clerk informed members that planning applications had been received for nine telecommunications boxes around the Island. What seemed curious was that they were clustered to a degree, with four boxes in Underhill, four more in Easton and one in the area of the Grove. He had not been able so far to obtain from the County an explanation as to why Weston and Southwell had not received any similar provision.

Mrs Beven expressed concern about the location of one of the boxes already planned.

### **817 – MARKETING FOR ISLAND TOURISM**

Cllr. Collinge asked about the progress of visitor information boards around the Island. Mrs Cooch said they were being made available at waypoints. After planning problems a board should be provided at Tout Quarry, also High Angle Battery and perhaps one too for Cheyne Weares.

(Mr Elliott left the meeting in the course of the discussion at 8.55pm.)

Cllr. Denton-White drew attention to the calendar of events in the Marshwood Vale magazine as an example for Portland to follow. He thought the Town Council website should be better used for marketing the Island and urged the need for leaflets specifically about Portland in tourist information centres.

Mr Matthews pointed out that funding for tourist maps of the Island was nearly exhausted. The Borough Council was prepared to make a financial contribution and he requested that the Town Council also provide up to £500.

**RESOLVED** – that a request for a financial contribution up to £500 for printing Island maps be referred to the next meeting of the Finance & Projects Committee.

Mrs Beven spoke of the plans for a Portland Information Network of small business and community sites around the Island offering printed Portland tourist information and a modicum of personal help.

Following a motion from Cllr. Collinge it was **RECOMMENDED** – that the Council appoint a briefholder for tourism.

### **818 – WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE**

The Clerk offered a brief resume of the winter maintenance briefing he had attended hosted by the County Council Engineering Department.

The meeting then **RECOMMENDED** – that grit bins be provided at the following locations: Amelia Close, Belgrave Place (Meisner's Knap), Coronation Road, East Weare Road, Hambro Road, Killicks Hill, Paul's Mead, Tillycombe Road, Upper Light Lane, Verne Hill Road (near the bridges) and Weare Close.

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

No matters were raised.

**820 – ISSUES RAISED BY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS**

**a) Island Clean-Up**

Mrs Cooch gave notice of a clean-up taking place on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

**b) Coastguard Lookout Station**

Mr Peters reported on recent developments. After a protracted negotiation with Trinity House permission had been given to go ahead with the CCTV camera system project, installation work commencing on 1st December 2011. The Institution were unable to attract any local funding and eventually sought help from a company based in Holland. The camera system will assist those manning the Lookout to keep a good watch over those mariners who choose to use the waters round the Bill, especially the inshore passage that is not directly visible from the Station.

**821 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair advised members that the next meeting of the Partnership would take place at the Council Offices on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.35 pm.

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