

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH MAY 2015 IN THE PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE, REFORNE, PORTLAND

PRESENT: Councillors R. Hughes (Town Mayor), Ms J. Atwell, Miss A. Barnicoat, G. Chadwick, Mrs S. Cocking, J. Draper, C. Flack, C. Gover, Ms. S. Lees, Mrs S. Reynolds, D. Symes, D. Thurston, Mrs S. West and R. Wild.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk) and Rev. James Menzies (Mayor's Chaplain), together with invited guests and members of the public.

1Y – PRAYERS

Rev. James Menzies led the meeting in prayer.

2Y – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

3Y – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

4Y – TOWN MAYOR'S ADDRESS

The retiring Town Mayor, Cllr. Rob Hughes, addressed the Town Council and wider audience. He began by thanking past Councillors for their support, his Chaplain and the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Rod Wild, who he described as "a great help." He and Rod had tried very hard to engage with the wider community.

Meeting so many people had been an enlightening experience, not least how other Councillors had engaged with their councils. He described Portland as a "gem" in the community.

Cllr. Hughes also thanked the Mayor of Weymouth, Cllr. Kate Wheller, for her support through the year.

He wished the new Council success, with many new members joining it, including three past Town Mayors, and a nineteen-year-old Councillor.

He thanked the community for their support of his mayoral efforts, for example, dressing as a cowboy at the Jurassic Rocks festival and collecting money in a bucket, which raised over £300. In all £2,500 had been raised for his charities, the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance and National Coastwatch Institute.

Cllr. Hughes presented a cheque to Geoff Peters of the NCI, who thanked him for the donation, saying it would be used for a solar project to help the local Coastwatch station generate its own energy requirements.

Cllr. Hughes also referred to his other fund-raising events, a pirate evening, a Hallowe'en evening and a Mad Hatter's party.

5Y – ELECTION OF NEW TOWN MAYOR

Cllr. Hughes called for nominations for the Town Mayor in the municipal year 2015/16. Cllr. Chadwick proposed Cllr. Wild, seconded by Cllr. Lees. There being no other nominations, it was **RESOLVED** – unanimously that Cllr. Rod Wild be elected Town Mayor of Portland, to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

Cllr. Wild made the statutory declaration of office and was invested with the Chain of Office by the outgoing Mayor Cllr. Hughes. Cllr. Wild then took the Chair.

6Y – NEW TOWN MAYOR’S ADDRESS

Cllr. Wild explained that rather than invite civic dignitaries to attend as the usual custom he had invited people who had made a significant contribution to life on the Island as a way of expressing his thanks.

He said Cllr. And Mrs Hughes were “a hard act to follow” for all the dedication they had brought to the role of Mayor and Mayoress.

For the first time in many years they had a fully elected Council with an eclectic mix of new, young and older members. The year ahead presented many challenges as the effects of the Localism Act become more widely known. Thanks to the work of Andy Matthews and his team it was quite possible that the Neighbourhood Plan would be ready to go to a referendum this year.

Rev. James Menzies had agreed to serve as his Chaplain for the year and Rod’s daughter, Becky, would be the Mayor’s Escort. His nominated charities would be the Portland Seafarers’ Support and the Portland Food Bank.

A D-Day service would be the next civic event on the Island and he was working with the Borough and the Royal British Legion to ensure that VJ Day would be suitably commemorated.

At the end of the speech the retiring Mayoress, Mrs Andrea Frankham-Hughes was presented with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Council.

7Y – ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr. Wild called for nominations for the post of Deputy Mayor in the municipal year 2015/16. Cllr. Hughes proposed Cllr. Chadwick, seconded by Cllr. Wild. There being no other nominations, it was **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Glenn Chadwick be elected Deputy Mayor of Portland, to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

Cllr. Chadwick made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office and was invested with the Badge of Office by the Town Mayor.

8Y – TOWN MAYOR’S INVITATION

The Town Mayor, with the assistance of the Town Crier, invited all the guests present to join him for light refreshments at the close of the meeting.

9Y – ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded and duly **RESOLVED** – that the Town Council’s meeting be adjourned, to reconvene on Tuesday, 26th May 2015 at the Council Offices to transact the remainder of the Council's business on the agenda.

The meeting ended at 7.30pm.

Signed..... Dated.....
(Town Mayor)