

## **PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

### **ADJOURNED TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2014**

**PRESENT:** Councillors L. Ames (Chair), Mrs S. Bradley, G. Chadwick, R. Denton-White, R. Hughes, A. Matthews, Miss A. Munro, T. Munro, E. Munro-Price, I. Munro-Price, R. Nowak, Mrs S. Reynolds and R. Wild.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. T. Gomm (Mayor's Chaplain), Cllr. Kate Wheller (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council and Dorset County Council), and approximately thirty-five members of the public.

#### **2622 – PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

#### **2623 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr. K. Tonkinson-Dutherford.

#### **2624 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **2625 – MEETING AGENDA**

Cllr. Tim Munro asked why the wording of agenda items had been altered from the previous meeting. The Clerk asked Cllr. Munro which items he had in mind particularly and was told items 6 and 7. The Clerk said he had made changes that included items 6, 7, 9 and 10, in part to reflect changed circumstances caused by the adjournment of the previous meeting, but the business to be conducted remained the same.

Cllr. Denton-White asked for an explanation of the adjournment. From the chair Cllr. Ames said he had been concerned to act according to the Council's standing orders. Having received conflicting advice from different people he had felt obliged to seek authoritative legal opinion elsewhere and therefore had postponed the meeting in order to do so.

#### **2626 – MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013**

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

#### **2627 – MAYORAL ADDRESS**

Cllr. Ames spoke of the Island being governed independently for nine hundred years until being amalgamated with Weymouth as a Borough in 1974. He also referred to a lack of faith in the future of the Island, which he thought had increased in recent times.

Cllr. Ames then turned to the attributions of Portland, chief among them Portland Stone, which deservedly enjoyed a worldwide reputation. He highlighted the history,

beauty and sense of dignity of the Island, all of which contributed in making it a wonderful place to live.

#### **2628 – TOWN MAYOR, 2014/15**

The Chair reminded members that Cllr. Tim Munro had already been nominated. Cllr. Hughes was nominated by Cllr. Bradley and Cllr. Wild by Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price.

Following discussion of the merits of the candidates a recorded vote was taken.

For Cllr. Tim Munro: Cllrs. Denton-White and Miss Amanda Munro (2 votes)  
For Cllr. Hughes: Cllrs. Ames, Mrs Bradley, Chadwick, Hughes, Matthews, Nowak and Mrs Reynolds (7 votes)  
For Cllr. Wild: Cllrs. Tim Munro, Mrs Elspie Munro-Price and Ian Munro-Price (3 votes)  
Abstentions: Cllr. Wild (1 vote)

There being an absolute majority on the first round of voting, it was **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Rob Hughes be elected Town Mayor of Portland for 2014/15.

#### **2629 – INSTITUTION OF MAYOR**

Cllr. Hughes made the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and received the Chain of Office.

#### **2630 – MAYORAL ADDRESS**

In a short speech Cllr. Hughes thanked the outgoing Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Cllrs. Ames and Tim Munro, together with the Mayor's Chaplain, Rev. Tim Gomm.

He expressed the hope that the Council could move forward as it had lots to do, working together and working in conjunction with the community. He referred to his own involvement on the Island, namely teaching scuba-diving and taking part in beach cleaning events.

Cllr. Hughes announced his mayoral charities for the year, the National Coastwatch Institution and Dorset Air Ambulance.

#### **2631 – DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR, 2014/15**

Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price nominated Cllr. Wild and Cllr. Chadwick nominated Cllr. Bradley. A recorded vote was taken.

For Cllr. Wild: Cllrs. Denton-White, Matthews, Tim Munro, Elspie Munro-Price, Ian Munro-Price, Nowak and Wild (8 votes)

For Cllr. Bradley: Cllrs. Ames, Bradley, Chadwick, Hughes and Reynolds (5 votes)  
**RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Rod Wild be elected Deputy Town Mayor.

#### **2632 – INSTITUTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

Cllr. Wild made the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

(Cllr. Ames left the meeting at 7.50 pm)

## **2633 – OPEN FORUM**

### **a) Police Question Time**

No representative of the Police was present.

### **b) Public Half-Hour**

Sue Lees asked why attachments to the agenda listed on the agenda paper had not been available to the public. The Clerk replied that pressure of time with competing priorities had prevented this.

### **c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

Cllr. Wheller reported that she and Cllr. Kimber had met representatives of Dorset Highways about the recent storms that had hit the Island and the failure of the drains to cope adequately. At a site meeting they had noted all that were in need of clearing, although the open guttering in Chiswell was looking better. They had asked Highways for permanent repairs to be carried out on pot holes that had resulted. She asked members of the public to contact her or Cllr. Kimber if they had particular problems arising from the flooding.

Cllr. Matthews noted that no County consultation events had been scheduled for Underhill. Cllr. Wheller replied that Highways had received two or three suggestions for locations, which they were in the process of reviewing.

## **2634 – MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014 AND 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014**

### **a) Minute 2603 – Police Question Time**

Cllr. Wild asked that the words “of children” be deleted from para 1.

### **b) Minute 2610(a) – Payments for Authorisation**

Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price pointed out that the payment under cheque ref: 3049 had not been approved and should be brought to the next Council meeting for approval, this to be noted in the minute.

With these amendments included both sets of minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

## **2635 – ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Cllr. Nowak requested that Agenda Item 17(a) be taken before Item 16. The Chair accepted this.

## **2636 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING**

### **a) Minute 2609 - Neighbourhood Plan Management Group Held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

Cllr. Tim Munro asked whether all the members of the Working Group had signed a declaration of interests form. Cllr. Matthews said all but Mr Mark Jackson had signed.

### **b) Minute 2614 – Recording of Votes Cast in Council Decisions**

It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that the change to Standing Order 10: Voting be ratified i.e. to add a second sentence, “In all votes of the Council

and its Committees the Clerk shall record the numbers of votes cast for, against and any abstentions.” (12-0-0)

**2637 – TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**2638 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR**

In both cases there were none.

**2639 – COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

**a) Finance & Projects Committee**

The membership of the Committee was discussed. It was accepted that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were ex officio members. Cllr. Nowak proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that Cllrs. Bradley and Reynolds be members of the Committee. (12-0-0)

**2640 – ELECTION OF CHAIRS AND DEPUTY CHAIRS FOR 2014/15**

To enable this item to proceed Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that Standing Order 44 be suspended (12-0-0)

**2641 – COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS (sic)**

**b) Neighbourhood Plan Management Group**

It was proposed by Cllr. Matthews and **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Bradley be a member of the Group. (12-0-0)

**c) Budget & Investment**

Membership unchanged.

**d) Events**

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Chadwick be a member of the Sub-Committee.

**e) Grants**

Membership unchanged.

**f) Human Resources & IT**

Cllr. Nowak having resigned, Cllr. Denton-White proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Chadwick be a member of the Sub-Committee.

**g) Island Caretaker**

It was suggested that the Working Group responsibility pass to the Human Resources & IT Sub-Committee with members of the former being able to transfer to the latter. Without a formal motion this was agreed unanimously. (11-0-0)

Cllr. Wild indicated his willingness to join the Sub-Committee, Cllrs. Denton-White and Tim Munro were not willing.

**h) Standing Orders & Financial Regulations**

**i) Tourism**

Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price suggested that Standing Orders and Financial Regulations become the responsibility of Finance & Resources and tourism issues be considered

by the Events Sub-Committee, renamed Events and Tourism. These suggestions were also agreed unanimously. (11-0-0)

## **2642 – ELECTION OF CHAIRS AND DEPUTY CHAIRS**

### **a) Finance & Resources Committee**

There were town nominations for Chair. Only members of the Committee took part in the vote.

Cllr. Denton-White received four votes, Cllr. Tim Munro two votes and there was one abstention. **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Denton-White be elected Chair.

It was **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Tim Munro be elected Deputy Chair. (6-0-1)

### **b) Marine & Environment Partnership**

**RESOLVED** – Cllr. Bradley was elected Chair and Cllr. Wild Deputy Chair, both unopposed. (12-0-0)

### **c) Planning & Highways Advisory Committee**

**RESOLVED** – Cllr. Wild was elected Chair and Cllr. Bradley Deputy Chair, both unopposed. (8-0-0)

### **d) Neighbourhood Plan Management Group**

**RESOLVED** – Cllr. Tim Munro was elected Chair and Cllr. Bradley Deputy Chair, both unopposed. (12-0-0)

Cllr. Nowak observed that although two of the Sub-Committees had already started holding meetings they were both operating in a vacuum since the Finance & Resources Committee had not yet met and the primary issue was to resolve the procedures regarding it.

## **2643 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

### **a) Payments for Authorisation**

**RESOLVED** – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 3079 – 3102) in the sum of £6,315.55 including VAT be authorised for payment. (12-0-0)

### **b) Internal Auditor's Report, 2013/14**

#### **c) Annual Return for 2013/14**

The Clerk explained that the work on both was not yet complete and therefore both would be brought to Council at a later date.

#### **d) Bank Signatories**

**RESOLVED** – that Cllrs. Denton-White, Hughes, Tim Munro and Wild be the bank signatories for 2014/15. (12-0-0)

## **2644 – APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS**

The Council reviewed its list and brought it up to date for the coming year. There were a few queries arising (marked on the attached list) that need to be followed up.

**2645 – MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014**

The minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record. (12-0-0)

**2646 – RESOLUTIONS FROM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

a) It was agreed to defer discussion of the proposal to replace the Town Mayor with a Chairman.

b) It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – that future meetings of the Town Council and Finance & Projects Committee be held in public halls on the Island with disabled access, the Clerk to decide and arrange the location for each. (10-2-0)

Cllr. Tim Munro thought there should also be hearing loop provision.

**2647 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr. Tim Munro, Chair of the Management Group, reported that the Plan was currently six weeks behind schedule but within budget. Reports on the current consultations would be presented and considered in September. The Working Group had a range of expertise available, but there remained a need for extra hands to help.

**2648 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS**

No reports were presented. Cllr. Wild thought it would be helpful if more effort were made to provide these reports back to the Council.

**2649 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014 starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.50 pm.

Signed..... Dated.....  
(Chair)