

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8TH APRIL 2015 AT OSPREY LEISURE CENTRE, CASTLETOWN, PORTLAND

PRESENT: Councillors R. Hughes (Town Mayor), Mrs S. Bradley, G. Chadwick, R. Denton-White, Ms S. Lees, A. Matthews and R. Wild, together with Councillor P. McCartney (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council) and five members of the public.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk) and Stuart Cave (Town Crier)

15/1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Miss A. Munro, R. Nowak and J. Thorner.

15/2 – MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, 7TH MAY 2014

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

15/3 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 14/3(c) – Officers’ Field Football Pitch

Cllr. Matthews asked whether there was any more news of the pitch being in use. Cllr. Wild said the gates to the pitch were not locked and the grass had been cut recently.

15/4 – TOWN MAYOR’S REPORT, 2014/15

Cllr. Hughes said that the year had been both good and a difficult one. Because of problems that had arisen in the recent past members had tried to rebuild bridges with the public, both through civic events and the normal Council meetings.

He was pleased to say that representatives both of the Jurassica and MEMO projects had shown interest in using accommodation at the Town Council Offices for exhibition and administrative purposes. He hoped the Borough would welcome this initiative, particularly as other suggested premises had either not offered satisfactory accommodation or been prohibitively expensive.

Cllr. Hughes thanked the public and Council for supporting his charities, Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance and National Coastwatch Institution through the year. Altogether £2,500 had been raised to donate to them.

He then turned to the Council review. The first part had still to be implemented in full while the consultants’ work on the second part had not yet been undertaken.

The annual precept for 2015/16 had been set at a zero increase. Personally he had favoured a £1.49 increase, but the main target remained that of balancing the books.

15/5 – FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2014/15

The Clerk presented his report.

Cllr. Matthews pointed out the need for the movement of reserves to be shown in future reports to explain the derivation of expenditure, the Neighbourhood Plan being such a case.

15/6 – REPORT BY THE TOWN CRIER

Mr Cave enlarged on his written report. He continues to enter crier competitions as one way of providing more publicity for the Island.

His wife had made a new blue hat and matching waistcoat. He had also been provided with a custom-made “Portland” staff.

Cllr. Hughes thanked Mr Cave for all his work during the year.

15/7 – ELECTORS’ ITEMS

Paul Snow noted the flak the Council had taken during the year, and thanked all the members for the hard work they had put in.

David Symes drew attention to the efforts Cllr. Hughes had made as Mayor in reaching people who were not normally in contact with the Council.

Cllr. Penny McCartney spoke of her first year as a Borough councillor. She too expressed appreciation for Cllr. Hughes’ work as Mayor. It had been a busy year for her with frequent calls from residents about waste disposal. She spoke also of her efforts to get the fencing repaired at New Ground and complaints about access along footpaths.

15/8 – DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

The next Annual Town Meeting is due to take place on Wednesday, 6th April 2016.

The meeting ended at 7.30 pm.

Signed Dated
(Town Mayor)