

**PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH APRIL 2018**  
**AT THE PETER TRIM HALL, ST GEORGE'S CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ray Nowak (Chairman), Jo Atwell, Sue Cocking, Jim Draper, Charlie Flack, Lucy Grieve, Sandra Reynolds, David Symes, David Thurston, Sandy West and Rod Wild

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Dave Farmer (Mayor's Chaplain), Councillor Katharine Garcia (Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), Councillors Kerry Baker (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), Andy Matthews (Neighbourhood Plan Working Group) and three members of the public

**3654 – CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

Cllr Nowak welcomed all to the meeting and advised of fire precautions at the hall.

**3655 – PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

**3656 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Sue Lees together with Kate Wheller (Dorset County Council & Weymouth & Portland Borough Council) and Paul Kimber (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council).

**3657 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**3658 – OPEN FORUM**

**a) Police Question Time**

There was no representative of the Police present.

**b) Public Half-Hour**

The chairman ruled that he would accept comments and questions on Agenda Item 12 – BEACH when that item was reached.

Mr Vincent said that with regard to Minute 3645, para 4 he had calculated the rise in precept as 20.9%.

Mr Vincent asked that once Portland Town Council Offices are moved to Underhill could notices, minutes, agendas and dates of meetings be sent to Easton Library for the library to display.

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

Cllr. Garcia offered her congratulations on the purchase of Brackenbury School. She emphasised the need to grow the Portland economy, provide housing for those on lower incomes and support the youngsters at the Academy.

Cllr. Baker said she would be meeting Cllr. Jeff Cant and Martyn Underhill shortly to discuss measures for dealing with unruly children locally.

Cllr. West reported on a meeting of the Borough Management Committee, which had included discussion of High Street, Fortuneswell and Officers' Field. She had criticised the Council's prevarication over 11 High Street and was waiting for answers to written questions concerning what she felt was Borough asset-stripping of properties on the Island. In particular she mentioned the Borough's leasing of half of the Officers' Field site to the County Council.

Cllr. Nowak endorsed Cllr. West's views on the Borough's neglect of High Street properties and the use of Officers' Field. He also noted a full list of Borough properties had been made available for possible transfer to Weymouth Town Council but not an equivalent for Portland.

### **3659 – MINUTES**

#### **a) Town Council Meeting, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

Minute 3645, para 4 – Former Brackenbury Infants School

Cllr. Draper proposed that the figure of 6.3% be revised to 20.9%. This was **RESOLVED**. With this amendment the minutes were formally approved and signed as a correct record.

#### **b) Annual Town Meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

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

### **3660 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Minute 3651 – Grit Bin**

Cllr. Flack said he had e-mailed the area highways officer, but had not yet received a reply.

### **3661 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN**

Derek Vincent's question concerning definition of terms associated with parish council borrowing and Portland Council's reserves. Cllr. Nowak read this written reply, which would be forwarded to Mr Vincent.

### **3662 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr Flack reported that Atlantic Academy had confirmed their interest in pen-pal arrangements with San Mauro. He would also be contacting St. George's about this after Easter. Positive feedback has continued to come in about the March Ceremony of the Keys.

### **3663 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

**RESOLVED** – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 300159 – 300161) in the sum of £7,490.64 including VAT be authorised for payment.

#### **b) 2017/18 Financial Report to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

**RESOLVED** – that the report be accepted.

### **3664 – COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR, 2018/19**

**RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Nowak be nominated as Chairman.

**RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Flack be nominated as Mayor.

**RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Cocking be nominated as Deputy Mayor.

### **3665 – BEACH**

The report update was presented by Cllr. Grieve and accepted by the Council - Copy of the report are attached to the minutes.

The County Council accepted the Town Council's bid for Brackenbury Infant School site at a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April. The Town Council has submitted a bid for a public works loan of £200,000 and an application for major grant funding. Cllr. Grieve went on to discuss the financial aspects in greater detail.

### **3666 – PUBLIC HALF-HOUR (continued)**

Derek Vincent asked when a public meeting would be held concerning the BEACH. Cllr. Nowak replied that it would not be held as yet because income from tenancies would cover the loan repayment. Therefore no increase would be necessary in the precept, which meant no obligation to have a meeting. The meeting would probably take place in late June or July and the Centre would be opened up to the public.

June Morley said Cllr. Draper had indicated a meeting would take place soon to let the people of the Island have their say. Cllr. Draper said there had been opportunities already for the public to express their views on the hub. Differing financial options had been presented, including a worst-case scenario. However it now seemed that costs would be lower than expected. For example the cost of renting the offices at Easton Street was nearly as much as that of repaying the loan.

Cllr. Baker referred to the survey conducted by the Council and queried its end date. She had been finding that people were unaware of the proposed move to Brackenbury and a sense of frustration. Cllr Grieve said that the survey had ended on 3rd April. She explained that whilst much had been done to publicise the project, it can be difficult to raise public awareness. The task of raising awareness of the BEACH will be an on-going one and PTC has Marketing and Fund-raising plans in place which will direct this effort.

### **3667 – CALENDAR OF MEETINGS, 2018/19**

It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – that Council adopt the dates of Town Council meetings for the coming year shown by the additions in version 2 of the calendar enclosed with the agenda i.e. the later dates in June and July, and no meetings in August, December and March.

The choice of dates for Finance Committee meetings was postponed until the next meeting of Council in May.

### **3668 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR TREES**

**RESOLVED** – that the Council write to the Borough, expressing Council's wish to return to the old situation of commenting on tree applications and the hope that the Borough Planning Committee would take note of these comments.

### **3669 – DATA PROTECTION POLICY**

It was proposed by Cllr. Draper and **RESOLVED** – that Council formally adopt the current working draft policy and amend it at a later date as appropriate in the light of the new General Data Protection Regulation.

### **3670 – GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION**

Members were advised that a timetable had been agreed by the Finance Committee for compliance with the regulation.

It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – that the Council's Chairman of its Staffing Committee be appointed as the Data Protection Officer.

### **3671 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr. Draper advised members that the Island Neighbourhood Plan was most likely now in its last year of formulation.

**RESOLVED** – a) that a total resource of £5,000 be set aside within the 2018/19 budget and this should be financed from reserves, b) that Paul Weston's continued engagement in 2018/19 is covered by Standing Order 11.1(a)(ii) and therefore there is no requirement to seek competitive quotation or tender.

### **3672 – ARCHIVING OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – that the Clerk's report be accepted and that the Council's minutes and associated papers be transferred to the Dorset History Centre for cataloguing and secure storage.

It was further agreed that the Portland History Centre be informed of the move.

### **3673 – RISK ASSESSMENT, 2017/18**

Cllr. Nowak said the Council's Freedom of Information Policy would be reviewed in due course. Cllr. Grieve thought it right to include a charge for officer time incurred in complying with requests and this should be considered as part of the review.

### **3674 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS**

The Clerk presented an additional report on the latest Society of Local Clerks (SLCC) meeting.

### **3675 – EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** – that pursuant to the provisions of Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for an additional emergency Agenda Item by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

### **3676 – ADDITIONAL ITEM OF BUSINESS**

Cllr. Nowak brought the item, which concerned the Coastal Community Fund.

It was proposed by Cllr. Atwell and **RESOLVED** – that a representative of the Fund be asked to give Council a presentation on the subject in hand.

### **3677 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meetings scheduled to take place are the Annual Town Council Meeting (Mayor-Making) at the Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy, Osprey Quay on **Tuesday**, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and the Adjourned Town Council Meeting at the Peter Trim Hall, St. George's Centre, Reforne on **Wednesday**, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018, both at 6.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm.

Signed ..... Dated.....  
(Chairman)