

**PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015**  
**AT THE PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE, REFORNE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors R. Wild (Chair), Ms J. Atwell, Miss A. Barnicoat, G. Chadwick, Mrs S. Cocking, C. Flack, Mrs S. Reynolds, D. Symes, D. Thurston and Mrs S. West

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev James Menzies (Mayor's Chaplain), Cllrs. Paul Kimber (Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council) and Penny McCartney (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), PCSO Lynne Huckins (Dorset Police), Mr Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership and Neighbourhood Plan Working Group) and three members of the public

**2873 – PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

**2874 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. J. Draper, C. Gover, R. Hughes, Ms S. Lees and Jason Webb (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council).

**2875 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**2876 – OPEN FORUM**

**a) Police Question Time**

PCSO Huckins said that a team of special constables was currently dealing with speeding issues and uncovered stone lorries on the Island.

Cllr. West asked about parking on Verne Common, which made pedestrian access difficult. PCSO Huckins replied that parking on pavements and dangerous parking was a police responsibility. Some discretion was exercised on the Island with warnings before a ticket was issued.

Cllr. Thurston drew attention to increased parking on verges, including company vehicles. PCSO Huckins said this was a County responsibility, but unfortunately it showed little concern.

PCSO Huckins also reported that two recent spates of crime on the Island had been resolved with arrests and that the Police were moving offices to the Fire Station site next week.

**b) Public Half-Hour**

Mr Matthews informed the meeting that the Community Partnership had secured asset registration for Underhill Junior School with the County, thus postponing the sale.

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

Cllr. Penny McCartney advised that she was on a Borough working group looking at savings in connection with parks and gardens. Cllr. Kate Wheller had been loaned a speed camera and was looking for volunteers to help monitor vehicles.

She also noted frequent complaints about grass-cutting not being carried out, especially in Southwell. There were problems in Westcliff, where the two housing associations were not taking responsibility. However she was due to hold a meeting with the County and other bodies in the hope of finding a solution.

Cllr. Paul Kimber noted the efforts of Linda Levy to get a better bus service, particularly for areas like the Grove which have no service at all. He suggested the Town Council might play a more active part in getting improvements.

He advertised two consultations taking place shortly on waste and mineral sites. The Island event takes place on 11<sup>th</sup> August. With regard to health local doctors were pressing for fitness regimes in preference merely to prescribing pills as a remedy. He also stressed the continuing reductions in funding, particularly for Children's and Adult Services.

Cllr. Sandy West reported on recent planning decisions. She also drew attention to a problem with multiple A-boards outside the New Inn and the volunteering opportunities available in assisting the B-side festival.

### **2877 – MINUTES**

#### **a) Finance & Resources Committee, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

Cllr. Flack noted that references to "Cllr. Thornton" should have read "Cllr. Thorner." With these amendments the minutes were formally approved and signed as a correct record. (For: 3 votes, Against: 0 votes, Abstentions: 7 votes)

#### **b) Annual Town Meeting, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

The minutes were formally approved. (2-0-8)

#### **c) Annual Town Council Meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

The minutes were formally approved. (10-0-0)

#### **d) Adjourned Town Council Meeting, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

Cllr. Atwell said that Minute 2852(h) should have included Cllr. Lees rather than herself. The Clerk also mentioned two errors on the Outside Bodies schedule: Footpaths Liaison to include Cllr. Cocking rather than Cllr. Chadwick and the Quarries Liaison Committee to include Cllr. Wild instead of Cllr. West. With these changes the minutes were formally approved. (10-0-0)

#### **e) Additional Town Council Meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015**

The minutes were formally approved. (10-0-0)

#### **f) Additional Town Council Meeting, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

The minutes were formally approved. (10-0-0)

## **2878 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING**

**a) Finance & Resources Committee, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

**b) Annual Town Meeting, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

**c) Annual Town Council Meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

**d) Adjourned Town Council Meeting, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

There were no matters arising for each.

**e) Additional Town Council Meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015**

**i) Minute 2862 – Venues for Meetings of the Council and its Committees**

Cllr. Cocking asked that more care be taken in stating Council-related information on Facebook.

**ii) Minute 2861 – Public Participation**

Cllr. Chadwick spoke regarding the public criticism he had received. He had publicly apologised for his mistake. However he noted incorrect statements and assertions made by members of the public and asked that the topic be brought for debate to the July Council meeting.

**f) Additional Town Council Meeting, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**Minute 2871 – Letter Concerning Former Member of the Council**

The Clerk reported that he had written with details of the Councillor's decision, but had received no reply.

## **2879 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr. Wild announced the date of this year's Ceremony of the Keys, Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

He also reported attending a paraplegic sailing event at the Sailing Academy and a memorial service for HMS Sidon organised by the Royal Naval Association, when he had laid a wreath on behalf of the Island.

## **2880 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR**

There were none.

## **2881 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**a) Payments for Authorisation**

Answering a question from Cllr. Chadwick, the Clerk said an invoice had been sent to the Borough for the cost of hiring halls. **RESOLVED** – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 3292 - 3305) in the sum of £4,811.07 including VAT be authorised for payment. (10-0-0)

**b) 2015/16 Financial Report to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015**

**RESOLVED** – that the report be accepted. (10-0-0)

**c) Annual Return, 204/15**

The Clerk regretted that there had not been sufficient time to conclude the resolution of the final accounts and the internal auditor's report. He therefore requested an additional meeting of the Council on 24<sup>th</sup> June before the Planning meeting to approve the Annual Return. This was agreed.

### **2882 – STANDING ORDERS**

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that the draft set of standing orders be approved by Council subject to the deletion of paragraph 3(1) concerning recording meetings and the subject be discussed at the July Council meeting.

### **2883 – FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE COUNCIL**

Cllr. Chadwick reported on a recent meeting that the Borough had held with representatives of the Town Council. There had been an indication that the Borough might be willing to transfer ownership of the Town Council Offices to the Town and also be open to the Town taking on some parish council responsibilities currently exercised by the Borough.

A variety of views was expressed about when the Town should take on extra resources. The discussion moved seamlessly into an appraisal of the staffing review.

### **2884 – STAFFING REVIEW**

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** - that the staffing review recommendations in respect of working hours (ref. 25) and salary scales (ref. 26) be accepted and implemented as soon as practically possible. (10-0-0)

It was further proposed by Cllr. Reynolds and **RESOLVED** – that the staffing review recommendation in respect of CiLCA training for the Clerk (ref. 21) be accepted in principle, that the Clerk investigate and report back to the Human Resources / IT Committee. (7-2-1)

### **2885 – COUNCIL REVIEW, PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE**

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick that the quotation received be noted and reviewed in six months' time.

It was proposed by Cllr. Atwell that "six months" be amended to "four months." The amendment was carried. (10-0-0)

**RESOLVED** – that the second Council review quotation received be noted and reviewed in four months' time. (10-0-0)

### **2886 – MOTION CONCERNING COUNCIL STAFF**

The motion in Cllr. Chadwick's name was **RESOLVED** – that this Council records its thanks to the staff for their work during the previous term of the Council. (10-0-0)

### **2887 – GARDENING COMPETITION, 2015**

Mr Matthews was granted leave to speak. He suggested this year's competition be linked with the Spirit of Portland event in July.

It was proposed by Cllr. Flack and **RESOLVED** – that next year's competition be revived in the traditional format, subject to a review by the Events & Tourism Working Group. (10-0-0)

### **2888 – CURRENT ISSUES FOR FINANCE REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr Matthews spoke to his agenda paper, detailing his financial work in the past year on behalf of the Council and the current situation.

It was agreed to hold a meeting of Mr Matthews with the new Finance Representatives and the Clerk on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

### **2889 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The recommendation from the Plan Management Group was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that a project management approach be adopted for the Plan funded from current and future finance. (10-0-0)

### **2890 – TOURISM STRATEGY**

Following on from a previous discussion at the Marine & Environment Partnership, it was proposed by Cllr. West and **RESOLVED** – that the Portland Tourism and Visitor Management Strategy (attached to the agenda) be accepted as a working draft. (10-0-0)

### **2891 – TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY REGULATIONS**

It was agreed that this item be deferred to the Additional Town Council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

### **2892 – COUNCILLORS' NEWS FROM THE WARDS**

Cllr. Reynolds said that it was clear from conversations she had had with residents of the Grove and Wakeham that there was a need for a round-the-Island bus service and she requested it as an agenda item for the next Council meeting.

Cllr. Flack thanked the Victoria Bowls Club for providing refreshments after the D-Day memorial service. He expressed the regret of several youth organisations that they had not been formally invited to attend. He proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the Mayor be reimbursed for the cost of the HMS Sidon wreath. (10-0-0)

Cllr. Wild announced that the grave of the “Forest” crew at St. George’s was to be made a Merchant Navy memorial. The Quarry & Sculpture Trust was in the process of carving a stone. A service would be held and apparently the Merchant Navy Association was delighted with the proposal.

Cllr. Wild also reported that Cllr. Kimber had provided £400 of his personal County funding for a wi-fi hub in the SSF building at the Port.

He also said that the Mayor’s chain was paying a second visit to the enamellers as it was not right first time. The insurance value would be in the region of £30,000 and a replica would be employed for everyday civic use.

Cllr. Atwell reported a residents meeting at the YOI. They had been asked for vigilance in observing activity by the walls.

Cllr. Chadwick had spoken to Cllr. Kate Wheller about a house along Fortuneswell damaged by parked cars. Bollards would be installed as protection in the future. On another subject Peter Staddon was organising a church graveyard clean-up.

Cllr. Cocking reported that, following on from the recent Marine & Environment meeting, work would be done on Moorcroft Road by the end of the week.

**2893 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS**

Cllr. Wild noted that DORBAG was still functioning.

**2894 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meetings are due to take place on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (Additional) and Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015 (scheduled), starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

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