

**PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014**  
**AT EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. James Menzies (Mayor's Chaplain), Cllr. Paul Kimber (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council and Dorset County Council) and four members of the public

**2699 – PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

**2700 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Miss A. Munro, T. Munro, Mrs S. Reynolds and J. Thorner.

**2701 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs. Ian and Elspie Munro-Price declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 20 – 1<sup>st</sup> Portland Scouts.

**2702 – OPEN FORUM**

**a) Police Question Time**

No representatives of the Police were present. Cllr. Denton-White queried their continuing absence and The Chair said he would raise this with them at a meeting planned in the near future.

**(b) Public Half-Hour**

Paul Snow said he had asked at the Borough about new premises for the Town Council and was told he would receive a written answer. Cllr. Nowak commented that the matter had been an agenda item at a postponed Borough meeting, but he understood the Borough intended putting the Town Council Offices on the market when a suitable replacement property had been found.

Mr Snow also expressed concern that Cllr. Tim Munro had apparently advocated breaking road traffic law at the meeting concerning Spring Gardens and Ventnor Road.

Jess Nagel asked concerning the Council's letter to Dorset Highways about Ventnor Road. The Clerk said they were still awaiting a reply.

She had also asked Dorset Waste Partnership about problems with rubbish collection that people were experiencing, especially more elderly people. Cllr.

Matthews affirmed that he had done similarly, being aware of widespread problems in Underhill.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Waste Partnership, asking for a representative to come and respond to these difficulties.

Mr Snow also asked why there was no Town Council meeting scheduled for January to deal with the coming year's budget and precept. From the chair Cllr. Hughes said an additional meeting might well be arranged in the month.

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

Adding to the discussion about waste collection, Cllr. Kimber said he had never known such a problematical issue. The Partnership had managed to sort out longer-running problems, but new ones had arisen, some in quite unexpected parts of Underhill.

At a meeting of the full County Council the previous week he had raised the issue of children living below the breadline. He did not have the details to hand, but would e-mail them.

He also spoke of the Island's recycling centre, which was under threat of closure as part of a general review by the Waste Partnership. He saw the centre as a valuable resource and forecast massive queues at the tip in Weymouth, should Portland lose its own.

Cllr. Kimber then mentioned the Jurassica project. He thought the prospect it offered very exciting and praised the associated presentations that had been made. Although it offered the promise of jobs there remained many unanswered questions, not least about the supporting infrastructure. He supported the Navitus Bay project too, though many at the County Council were opposed.

The County was also likely to develop its own trading company, about which had both political and economic reservations. It would also be reviewing its standing orders, which he hoped would allow greater opportunity for small political groups to present motions.

## **2703 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

### **Minute 2680(b) – Public Half-Hour**

Cllr. Lees pointed out that the second para should have begun, "June Morley ...". With this amendment the minutes were formally approved and signed as a correct record. (For: 7 votes, Against: 0 votes, Abstentions: 3 votes)

## **2704 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING**

### **a) Minute 2680(b), para 1 – Fortuneswell Speed Limit**

Cllr. Denton-White asked about the Council's letter, but no reply had been received.

### **b) Minute 2680(b), para 4 – Olympic Rings**

Answering a question from Cllr. Lees, Cllr. Nowak said a warning sign had now been put on the rings.

**c) Minute 2682(b) – Condor Ferries**

Replying to a question from Cllr. Ian Munro-Price, Cllr. Nowak said the “door was still open” to Condor’s return. Further repairs to the harbour would be carried out “as and when”, but £10m would be required altogether. His personal view was that the Borough needed to take a fresh look at the use of the site.

**d) Minute 2682(d) – Discontinuance Notice**

Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price declared a pecuniary interest and asked when the notice would be served. The Clerk will reply.

**e) Minute 2685(a) – Payments for Authorisation**

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price asked whether the Mayor had paid for the Council’s new printer and Cllr. Hughes confirmed he had.

Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price enquired whether using the photocopier as a computer printer had been considered. Cllr. Chadwick said it had as part of the IT review and the conclusion was that it would require the use of cabling, which was not seen as a cost-effective solution.

**f) Minute 2686 – Ventnor Road**

Cllr. Chadwick expressed his concerns about the views expressed by Cllr. Tim Munro at the meeting.

**g) Minute 2687(a) – Future Events**

Cllr. Lees queried the Council’s involvement in Easton Promise Night. The Clerk replied that no invitation had been received yet. Cllr. Matthews said Portland Community Partnership would address the issue.

**h) Minute 2687(b) – Bonfire Night and Firework Event**

Asked by Cllr. Ian Munro-Price whether the event had gone ahead privately, Cllr. Chadwick replied that it had not.

**2705 – TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr. Hughes reported that he had received a letter from the captain of HMS Portland expressing his appreciation for the hospitality shown to himself and his crew by the people of Portland. The intention was for the ship to pay another visit to the Island in the spring next year.

He also mentioned that he had received a phone call earlier in the day concerning a “condemning report” about the Council. He was not sure what was meant by this.

**2706 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR**

None had been received.

**2707 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**a) Payments for Authorisation**

Cllr. Denton-White expressed concern about the number of invoices involving the hire of halls for meetings.

**RESOLVED** – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 3187 – 3201) in the sum of £2,712.96 including VAT be authorised for payment. (10-0-0)

**b) 2014/15 Financial Report to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014**

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price suggested that the money remaining in the Island Caretaker budget should be ring-fenced. Cllr. Nowak accepted that in effect some of the money had been used for other purposes. However the Council still intended to appoint another Island Caretaker in the future.

It was proposed by Cllr. Denton-White and **RESOLVED** – that the report be accepted. (7-3-0)

**c) Fixed Interest Account**

It was proposed by Cllr. Denton-White that the Council take up a twelve-month fixed interest account with Lloyds. (5-5-0) The motion was **LOST** on the casting vote of the Chair.

It was proposed by Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price that the Council take up a three-month fixed interest account with Lloyds, while looking at other offers available. Cllr. Wild proposed an amendment that the decision on the offers be delegated to Finance & Resources Committee. The amendment was **CARRIED**. (8-2-0)

**RESOLVED** - that the Council take up a three-month fixed interest account with Lloyds, while looking at other offers available and that the decision on the offers be delegated to Finance & Resources Committee.

Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price will provide the Clerk with suggestions on where to seek offers.

**2708 – STANDING ORDERS / FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

Cllr. Matthews said that Finance & Resources had agreed to carry out a review via the risk assessment and report back in December. It was agreed to wait for that report to be presented.

**2709 – CHEYNE WEARES**

Cllr. Wild reported that the posts have not been removed yet. However Cllrs. Chadwick and Lees said they had the matter in hand and will deal both with the posts and the potholes.

**2710 – GRIT BINS SUPPORT**

Cllrs. Elspie and Ian Munro-Price declared an interest. This item had been included because of the loss of the Island caretaker. In the course of the discussion Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price said that her staff would be able to refill the Town Council's grit bins before the end of January free of charge. She also asked the Clerk to provide a list of those bins.

**2711 – CONCESSION FOR ICE CREAM VAN AT CHEYNE WEARES**

Cllrs. Elspie and Ian Munro-Price declared a potential pecuniary interest. It was proposed by Cllr. Wild that the Council advertise the concession, with an accepted

amendment from Cllr. Chadwick that the finance for the advertisement come from the contingency budget. In the course of the debate Cllr. Denton-White moved that the motion now be put. This was **CARRIED**. (8-2-0)

**RESOLVED** - that the Council advertise the concession, the finance for the advertisement to come from the contingency budget. (7-3-0)

(Cllr. Hughes left the meeting at 8.55 pm. Cllr. Wild in the chair.)

## **2712 – APPOINTMENTS**

### **a) Events & Tourism Sub-Committee**

It was agreed that Cllr. Nowak fill the vacancy.

### **b) Grants Sub-Committee**

**RESOLVED** – that Cllr Lees fill the vacancy. (9-0-0)

(Cllrs. Elspie and Ian Munro-Price left the meeting at 9.00 pm.)

## **2713 – DORSET ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS**

Members considered the Association's own publicity leaflet. It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that the Town Council remain a member of the Association and the figure in the draft budget be used for subscriptions in the core budget. (7-0-0)

## **2714 – ANNUAL RETURN, 2013/14: EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT**

In the absence of the internal auditor to offer comment the item was postponed.

## **2715 – PORTLAND COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN**

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that the Mayor / Deputy Mayor be added to the list of contacts in an emergency and be involved with the Assistant Clerk in making Plan updates. (7-0-0)

## **2716 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that Council and all committee meetings (including Marine & Environment Partnership and Neighbourhood Plan Management Group) be held in DDA-compliant public halls. (6-1-0)

It was also proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that consideration of public access to sub-committees be postponed until after discussion on the status of sub-committees at the Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November. (6-1-0)

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that Finance & Resources and Marine & Environment meetings have public participation sessions. (6-1-0)

## **2717 – FLAGPOLES OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL OFFICES**

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that discussion of the topic be deferred until the future of the Council Offices was known more clearly. (7-0-0)

**2718 – 1<sup>ST</sup> PORTLAND SCOUTS**

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that the Council welcomed and granted the request that the troop adopt new neckerchiefs based on the design of the Portland flag. (7-0-0)

**2719 – ELECTORAL REVIEW OF DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL**

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that the consultation be noted and no further action be taken. (7-0-0)

**2720 – RECORDING OR FILMING OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Cllr. Chadwick pointed out that the Council had not voted formally to record its meetings. He proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the Council adopt the practice of recording its meetings, as far as practically possible, on a permanent basis. (7-0-0)

Cllr. Chadwick then presented four audio recording options across a range of prices. Among these he recommended a four-microphone option costing about £170, which plugged into a recorder. He then offered to donate his own recorder to the Council free of charge.

It was proposed by Cllr. Bradley and **RESOLVED** – that the Council proceed with buying the system recommended, to be funded from reserves, Finance & Resources to decide which budget to allocate the expenditure.

Finally it was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that he continue to back up the recordings and load them onto the Cloud for the duration of the current financial year. (7-0-0)

The Chair asked that the Council’s thanks to Cllr. Chadwick for his generous donation be recorded.

**2721 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS**

Cllr. Wild reported on the Weymouth Civic Awards evening, which he had attended. All but one of them had involved the Island in one way or another.

**2722 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meetings of the Town Council are due to take place on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014 (Additional) and Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2015, both starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm.

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