

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

ADDITIONAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24TH JUNE 2014 AT EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), and approximately twenty-two members of the public.

2649 – PRAYERS

The Clerk led the meeting in prayer.

2650 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None of the Councillors were absent.

2651 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Tim Munro declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4 – Complaints Against Cllr. Richard Denton-White through knowing the Councillor concerned, which the Chair granted as applying to all the other Council members.

2652 – COMPLAINTS AGAINST COUNCILLOR RICHARD DENTON-WHITE

On a point of order Cllr. Tim Munro said the letter from the monitoring officer gave the option of debating the issue as exempt business. However by putting investigation documents in the public domain the Clerk had effectively denied the Council the opportunity to make that choice.

The Clerk disputed this view, arguing that the monitoring officer was content that the documents included with the agenda did not pre-empt the Council's choice concerning the privacy of the debate. This he had already advised in an e-mail sent out the previous week to all Councillors.

It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that the ensuing debate be heard in public. (For: 12, Against: 0, Abstentions: 0)

Cllr. Chadwick then proposed the following motion:-

1) that this Council suspend Cllr. Denton-White from all Council committees, sub-committees, working groups and representation on outside bodies he may be on with immediate effect for the full term allowed to the Council of six months.

2) that this Council recommends to the monitoring officer that Councillor Denton-White be suspended from this Council for the maximum period of six months with immediate effect.

3) that a vote of no confidence in Cllr. Denton-White be taken by this Council.

The Clerk observed that the Council did not have the power to suspend the Councillor from the Council itself.

Cllr. Tim Munro thought the main issue was what sanctions were appropriate in this particular case. Cllr. Nowak said because Cllr. Denton-White had apologised for his behaviour a five-month suspension was preferable to six.

Cllr. Denton-White detailed the events of the evening concerned and then gave his response to the three accusations made. He also referred to the threats he had received as a result and false allegations.

Cllr. Nowak queried the second paragraph of the motion, which Cllr. Chadwick agreed to withdraw.

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price expressed concern that what he regarded as “mid-range” offences might receive an extreme penalty.

A recorded vote was taken on the first paragraph of the motion.

For: Cllrs. Bradley, Chadwick, Hughes, Matthews, Amanda Munro, Tim Munro, Elspie Munro-Price, Ian Munro-Price, Nowak, Reynolds and Wild

Against: None

Abstentions: Cllr. Denton-White

RESOLVED – that this Council suspend Cllr. Denton-White from all Council committees, sub-committees, working groups and representation on outside bodies he may be on with immediate effect for the full term allowed to the Council of six months.

Cllr. Chadwick withdrew the third paragraph of his original motion.

(Cllr. Bradley left the meeting at 7.45 pm.)

2653 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Internal Auditor’s Report, 2013/14

Cllr. Tim Munro noted that the report was only a draft version and advised that the Council’s response should therefore only be provisional.

Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price queried the adequacy of the management responses in the report.

With respect to the comment on risk assessment Cllr. Matthews said it was important to recognise that there were other risk issues not contained in the auditor’s report, but which were recognised in the current draft risk assessment.

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that the report be accepted as a draft version and go to the Finance & Resources Committee for more detailed consideration, but in its final version. (11-0-0)

b) Annual Return, 2013/14

It was proposed by Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price and **RESOLVED** – that Section 1 of the Return be approved and signed.

The Council went on to consider Section 2 paragraph by paragraph. Its **RESOLUTIONS** were as follows:-

Para 1:	Yes	(10-1-0)
Para 2:	No	(10-1-0)
Para 3:	No	(10-0-1)
Para 4:	Yes	(10-0-1)
Para 5:	No	(10-0-1)
Para 6:	No	(10-0-1)
Para 7:	No	(10-0-1)
Para 8:	No	(9-2-0)

2654 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 16th July 2014 in the Peter Trim Hall, St. George's Centre, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm.

Signed Dated
(Chair)