

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL 2014

PRESENT: Councillors L. Ames (Chair), Mrs S. Bradley, 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), Rev. Tim Gomm (Mayor's Chaplain), Cllr. Paul Kimber (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council) and Sgt. Ged Want (Dorset Police), together with twelve members of the public.

The meeting was preceded by a presentation on the work of the Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner by Mr Dan Steadman, Chief Executive of the Commissioner's Office, and started at 7.35pm.

2600 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

2601 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. R. Hughes.

2602 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

2603 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

Cllr. Wild asked if the Police had received any reports of gangs of children making a nuisance by the sea wall. Sgt. Want said they were aware of "boom box music" being played in the area and had increased patrolling there.

Cllr. Wild also enquired whether the Police were aware of recent camping and fires on West Weares. Sgt. Want replied that the public needed to notify them when specific instances occurred.

Cllr. Denton-White asked concerning Police response time Sgt. Want said that currently 91% of incidents were responded to within fifteen minutes. In the course of his reply he mentioned that Inspector Pete Browning had assumed command of the Police division that included the Island.

Sgt. Want then provided some crime statistics for Portland. In the year to 1st April 2014 crime and ASBOs issued had both fallen by 10%. Two particular individuals had been targeted because of their heavy involvement in crime. One was currently in police custody and the other was on remand. At present officers were paying special attention to Castletown and the quarry areas. They had also stepped up their use of social media to carry out their work.

b) Public Half-Hour

Peter Siddons expressed concern at a minute that had misquoted him concerning the Island Caretaker.

Sue Lees and Paul Snow complained about minutes not yet available on the Council website.

Bill Buchan supported the recording of meetings to help avoid disputes over the details involved in a particular minute.

Paul Snow queried whether the Council had sufficient funds to take over responsibility for allotments and war memorials (Agenda Item 16).

Jess Nagel criticised Cllrs. Denton-White and Tim Munro and asked members to consider the "honour and integrity of the Council." Both Councillors defended themselves and the actions they had taken.

Paul Snow criticised the Council's voting system for allowing four Councillors from the same family all to vote the same way on particular issues. The Clerk advised that no local government rulings on prejudicial interest were being broken.

c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr. Kimber reported that he would be referring the case of stones being displaced from lorries to the next meeting of the Quarry Liaison Committee. Meanwhile he had spoken to Mr Nash about the problem and Dorset Waste Partnership had agreed to sweep areas where stones were being displaced.

The County was conducting a peer view to analyse its activities and the findings were on the website. The personal grant of £5,000 to each councillor for seed funding of projects had been approved. Dorset's emergency planning unit was merging with those of Bournemouth and Poole. The County's Social Services were facing a cut of £7m and therefore looking at different ways of making provision, particularly in a situation where the number of over-65s was set to increase.

Cllr. Nowak said he was pursuing the idea of the Borough moving its offices to the Mulberry Centre. He also noted the end of the facility for the public to pay by cash at the Borough Offices. This would now have to be done through a post office.

2604 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19TH MARCH 2014

a) Minutes 2583(b) – Public Half-Hour

The Clerk requested an amendment to the 3rd para on page 2 to make it read, "Mr Siddons asked, if the Island Caretaker's contract was not renewed, would the people of Portland be given a refund from the precept?"

b) Minute 2592 – Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor, 2014/15

Cllr. Matthews asked for it to be recorded in the minutes that he had requested proposing a motion that the Council appoint a chairman for 2014/15 instead of a mayor. (He had been advised that this would require changes to Standing Orders, which could not be achieved within the time available and he had withdrawn the motion.)

c) Minute 2592 – Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor, 2014/15

The figures for the voting on the first resolution were disputed. Members also had different recollections as to whether it had been a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was taken at the meeting to try to establish what had been the correct voting figures. The result of this was For: Cllrs. Denton-White, Hughes, Amanda Munro, Tim Munro, Elspie Munro-Price, Ian Munro-Price and Wild, Against: Cllrs. Bradley, Matthews and Reynolds, Abstentions: Cllrs. Ames and Nowak i.e. seven votes in favour, three against and two abstentions. **RESOLVED** – that the voting figures be corrected.

With these amendments the minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

2605 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

2606 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

2607 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR

There were none.

2608 – HUMAN RESOURCES AND IT GROUP MEETING, 2ND APRIL 2014

Cllr. Nowak thought the recommendation should be brought to the new Finance and Resources Committee, as intended by the approved committee structural changes. It was therefore proposed by Cllr. Ames and **RESOLVED** – that the recommendation be referred to the Finance and Resources Committee.

2609 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING HELD ON 9TH APRIL 2014

Cllr. Matthews clarified that members had already received the evidence summary report and draft business survey. He requested members to make comments or suggest additions by the first week of May.

It was proposed by Cllr. Denton-White and **RESOLVED** – that Sandie Wilson of Portland Harbour Authority be admitted to membership of the Management Group.

Cllr. Matthews then read a list of all the members of the Working Group: Rachel Barton, Bill Buchan, Niall Gault, Mark Jackson, Richard Keenan and Doug Pigg, and advised that each had provided a declaration of interests form. It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that each of the afore-mentioned be formally admitted to the Working Group.

2610 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 3049 and 3061 – 3078) in the sum of £5,085.95 including VAT be approved. [NB Cheque ref. 3049 in the sum of £300.00, nil VAT, was inadvertently omitted from the schedule presented.

b) 2013/14 Financial Report to 31st March 2014

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted.

2611 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair indicated that he would defer the next agenda item, 12 – Co-option of Councillor until after Item 17.

2612 – RECORDING MEETINGS

Cllr. Reynolds spoke to her proposal, saying that she was prepared to settle for audio recordings if a visual alternative was not feasible financially. Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price proposed an amendment that the matter be reviewed by the Finance and Resources Committee, which Cllr. Reynolds accepted.

RESOLVED – that the Council investigate the feasibility of recording its meetings to prevent situations arising where contentious alterations to minutes were requested and that the matter be reviewed by the Finance and Resources Committee.

2613 – APPOINTMENT OF TOWN MAYOR, 2014/15

Cllr. Reynolds spoke to the motion of rescindment, as did Cllr. Matthews but with the proviso that he favoured a Chairman to replace the Town Mayor and would vote accordingly.

The voting on the motion was as follows:-

For: Cllrs. Ames, Bradley, Matthews, Nowak and Reynolds

Against: Cllrs. Denton-White, Amanda Munro, Tim Munro, Elspie Munro-Price, Ian Munro-Price and Wild

Abstentions: None.

The motion was therefore **LOST**.

(Cllrs. Elspie Munro-Price and Ian Munro-Price left the meeting at 9.45 pm.)

2614 – RECORDING OF VOTES CAST IN COUNCIL DECISIONS

It was proposed by Cllr Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that Standing Order 10 be modified to add a second sentence, “In all votes of the Council and its Committees the Clerk shall record the numbers of votes cast for, against and any abstentions.” This was agreed unanimously.

2615 – TRANSFER OF COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

RESOLVED – that the item be referred to the Finance and Resources Committee.

2616 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

Cllr. Wild reported in respect of recent DAPTC meetings and the April report of its Chief Executive.

(Cllr. Nowak left the meeting at 10.00 pm.)

2617 – 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 the remaining Agenda Items, 12 – Co-option of Councillor, 18 – Portland Fair and 19 – Mayor’s Charities by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

2618 - CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

The Council interviewed the candidate who had applied for co-option.

RESOLVED – that Mr Glenn Chadwick be co-opted as a Councillor to represent Tophill West Ward.

(Cllr Denton-White withdrew from the meeting.)

2619 – PORTLAND FAIR

Cllr. Ames reported on the meeting he and Cllr. Nowak had held recently with the Fair operators. The operators had explained the circumstances of the autumn Fair, that they were seeking to be released from the terms of their agreement with the Council and could only offer a sum below that stipulated under the agreement. Additionally there would no spring Fair this year.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** – that the Council accept the sum offered by the Fair operators in payment for the autumn Fair and that a new agreement be made between the two parties with a lower contract sum.

(Cllr Reynolds left the meeting at 10.25 pm. Cllr. Denton-White rejoined the meeting.)

2620 – MAYOR’S CHARITIES

Cllr. Ames requested that the Council make a donation to his charities in view of the fact that his intended Civic Evening had been cancelled due to a combination of the public outcry over increasing the Council’s precept and inclement weather. The request was declined by the Council but after the meeting members made personal donations to the Mayor to be passed on to his nominated charities.

2621 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meetings of the Town Council are due to take place on Wednesday, 14th May 2014 (Mayor-Making) and Wednesday, 21st May 2014 (Adjourned), both starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 10.30 pm.

Signed Dated
(Chair)