

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

ADDITIONAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, EASTON

PRESENT: Councillors L. Ames (Chair), Mrs R. Barton, Mrs S. Bradley, R. Denton-White, K. Dutheridge, R. Hughes, A. Matthews, Miss A. Munro, R. Nowak, Mrs S. Reynolds and R. Wild.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk) and Rev. James Menzies (Team Vicar), and Cllr. Kate Wheller (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council)

2542 – PRAYERS

Rev. Mr Menzies led the meeting in prayer.

2543 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. T. Munro, Mrs E. Munro-Price and I. Munro-Price.

2544 – OPEN FORUM

Public Half-Hour

A gentleman requested recorded votes for each decision made in connection with Agenda Item 9 – Council Budget and Precept, 2014/15. From the Chair Cllr. Ames said that it was his intention to do that.

Further comment was predominantly concerning the Precept item.

Cllr. David Hawkins queried the need for a Town Council Caretaker when the Borough was already providing a lengthsman service to the Island. He also requested Town Council elections in 2014. Cllr. Ames said the next elections were due in 2015 and this could only be altered with the agreement of the Secretary of State.

Mr Angus Kimber supported a 2% increase in the precept and commented on the infilling of the Bottomcombe footpath.

Mrs June Osborne commended the provision of services by the Borough Council and questioned the need for service responsibilities to be transferred to the Town.

Cllr. Mrs Sandy West questioned the continuance in office of Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price after six months' absence from Council meetings. The Clerk said disqualification was not automatic, but dependent on the Council's response to the explanation offered.

Cllr. Margaret Leicester raised legal concerns over the setting of the precept and criticised the winding up of the Council's Finance & Projects Committee.

Mr John Thorner criticised specific examples of the Council's spending.

Mr Tony Weldon criticised a Town Councillor for alleged abusive behaviour at the Council's recent public meeting.

Cllr. West took the view that expenditure on the Neighbourhood Plan was a misuse of Council money when the Borough already had a Local Plan in operation.

Among other comments a lady from Underhill expressed support for Cllr. Ames, particularly for resisting the Borough's wish to impose "double taxation" for responsibilities offered to the Town.

2545 – COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT, 2014/15

a) The Mayor formally received a petition signed by over 3,000 Islanders "in protest against the proposed rise in the Town Council precept." He then invited the organiser of the petition, Mr John Thorner, to address the meeting. Mr Thorner obliged, drawing attention to the substantial loss of confidence Portlanders had in its Council.

b) Members then considered the following motion submitted by Cllrs. Tim Munro, Miss Amanda Munro, Mrs Elspie Munro-Price and Ian Munro-Price:-

"Special resolution in accordance with SO36: 'to rescind the resolved decision (sic) as described in minute 2517 in the minutes of the council meeting held on the 18th of December. to rescind any resolved decision made in regard of agenda item 13 at the council meeting of 15th of January.'

The motion was formally proposed by Cllr. Amanda Munro.

For: Cllrs. Ames, Barton, Bradley, Denton-White, Dutheridge, Hughes, Matthews, Munro, Nowak, Reynolds and Wild.

Against: None. The motion was **RESOLVED**.

c) Council went on to consider proposals for setting a new precept.

Cllr. Nowak formally proposed the motion, "That the Precept for Portland Town Council should be set at 2% for 2014/15. This will take a band D from £14.73 to £15.02." He then spoke to his motion and a debate ensued.

For: Cllrs. Bradley, Hughes, Nowak, Reynolds and Wild.

Against: Cllrs. Ames, Barton, Denton-White, Dutheridge, Matthews and Munro. The motion was **LOST**.

Cllr. Matthews formally proposed a motion in the name of himself and Cllrs. Ames and Barton. He and Cllr. Barton then indicated their willingness to respond to the feeling of the public present and vote against this motion.

For: Cllrs. Denton-White and Dutheridge.

Against: Cllrs. Barton, Bradley, Hughes, Matthews, Munro, Nowak, Reynolds and Wild.

Abstained: Cllr. Ames

The motion was **LOST**.

Cllr. Nowak proposed a new motion, “that the precept be raised by an increase amounting to 1.99%.

For: Cllrs. Barton, Bradley, Hughes, Matthews, Munro, Nowak, Reynolds and Wild.
Against: Cllrs. Denton-White and Dutheridge. The motion was **RESOLVED**.

2546 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Following an adjournment and informal discussion among Councillors Cllr. Ames announced that it had been agreed to close the meeting at this point and the next meetings of the Council would be an additional one on Tuesday, 18th February 2014 and a scheduled meeting on Wednesday, 19th February 2014, both starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm.

Signed Dated
(Chair)