

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17TH JULY 2013

PRESENT: Councillors L. Ames (Chair), Mrs R. Barton, R. Denton-White, R. Hughes, Miss A. Munro, T. Munro, R. Nowak (from 7.20 pm) and R. Wild.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Inspector Les Fry and PC Steve Morris (Dorset Police) and three members of the public.

2416 – PRAYERS

The Clerk led the meeting in prayer.

2417 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Mrs S. Bradley, Mrs E. Munro-Price, I. Munro-Price and T. Woodcock, together with Rev. Tim Gomm (Mayor's Chaplain), Cllrs. Paul Kimber and Kate Wheller (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council and Dorset County Council) and Sgt. Ged Want (Dorset Police.)

2418 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

2419 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

Insp. Fry paying his first visit to the Council, introduced himself in his new role as the Neighbourhood Inspector. He reported on crime in the local area, where reported crimes and anti-social behaviour were both down.

He then went on to discuss the general state of policing across the county. Apparently the strength of Dorset Police is about to be reduced by four hundred officers. Therefore priority will be given to situations of "threat," "homes," and "crime and disorder." This means that civil issues and their enforcement will be neglected. Another strand is that the Police will work with business to encourage them to assist themselves in the prevention of crime.

Answering a question from Cllr. Denton-White, Insp. Fry accepted that the press can overstate the problem of crime and disorder. However he said Dorset Police had a good relationship with the Echo, which he regarded as not being sensationalist in its reporting.

Cllr. Tim Munro asked about negotiations with the Fire Service for sharing their premises at the Grove. Insp. Fry replied that currently police on the Island are based at Osprey Quay, but discussions are progressing concerning the specific move.

Cllr. Denton-White queried whether in the current situation there was a need for more people to carry out citizen's arrests. Insp. Fry said it would be preferable for more folk to come forward as volunteers in supplementing the police.

b) Public Half-Hour

There were no questions from the people present.

2420 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19TH JUNE 2013

Minute 2401 – Island Caretaker(s)

Cllr. Barton requested an alteration to para 1 along the lines, “She had brought draft copies of the job description and advertisement and offered to provide photocopies for the members present, but members declined and asked Cllr. Barton to read out ...” This was accepted. With the amendment the minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

2421 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Minute 2395(a), para 2 – Police & Crime Commissioner

The Clerk reported that the Commissioner would be unable to attend a Council meeting until February. Cllr. Tim Munro pointed out that he had regular meetings which tended to clash with the Council’s.

Cllr. Amanda Munro suggested a special Town Council meeting be held on an alternative date to accommodate the Commissioner. It was agreed that the Clerk should try to arrange one.

b) Minute 2400 – Visitor Centre Sub-Committee Meeting, 20th May 2013

It was reported that a meeting had been organised by the Crown Agent with representatives of the Council and Trinity House. The Agent was criticised for not including other parties as the Council had wished.

Cllr. Barton proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the Council e-mail the Crown Agent drawing attention to the interest of other parties, such as Portland Community Partnership, in the future management of the Visitor Centre.

c) Minute 2403(c) – Internal Auditor’s Report, 2012/13

Cllr. Denton-White regretted that the internal auditor had not answered the Council’s concerns and the Clerk was asked to write to the external auditor to that effect.

d) Minute 2413 – Gardening Competition, 2013

Cllr. Tim Munro asked for clarification of how the existing financial support was provided. The Clerk said it came from the advertising and civic expenditure budgets.

2422 – TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

2423 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR

None had been received.

2424 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

The Clerk drew attention to the invoice for refreshments at the Ceremony of the Keys. It was more likely a deduction would be made for a failure in part of the service delivered.

Cllr. Barton questioned the fact that only one supplier had been approached for the refreshments and Cllr. Amanda Munro said there were several Councillors willing to help in obtaining prices.

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2898 – 2907) in the provisional sum of £2,729.11 including VAT be authorised for payment.

b) 2013/14 Financial Report to 30th June 2013

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted.

c) Fixed Interest Account

The Clerk reported on recent events involved in setting up the new fixed interest account with Barclays, in particular some confusion over whom the signatories to the account would be.

It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that the signatories to the fixed interest account should be Cllrs. Ames, Bradley, Ian Munro-Price and Wild, together with the Clerk.

2425 – COUNCIL VACANCIES

The Clerk reported that due to an error the advertisement for co-option had not been published in the last edition of the Free Portland News. Only two applications had been received, one after the deadline.

It was proposed by Cllr. Amanda Munro and **RESOLVED** – that the vacancies be advertised in the Free Portland News with a closing date of 12th August, the two current applications to be carried forward.

2426 – ISLAND CARETAKER(S)

Council had before it the written report of the Clerk detailing the actions he had taken since the last Council meeting in this regard and the reasoning behind it.

Cllr. Tim Munro opened the debate by criticising the actions taken by the Clerk, that he had “pulled” the decision of the Council. Other Councillors endorsed this view.

(Cllr. Denton-White left the meeting at 8.15 pm.)

After a considerable time had elapsed the Clerk was given an opportunity to reply to members’ comments.

It was proposed by Cllr. Amanda Munro and **RESOLVED** – that the Clerk should resume enacting the decision of the Council.

There was further discussion on the subject until Cllr. Wild moved next business be taken, which was **RESOLVED**.

2427 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

As Chair of the Working Group Cllr. Barton reported on recent developments, in particular the framing of a draft “statement of intent” to try to reassure Portland Harbour Authority of the Council’s well-meaning for the Port.

It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that Mr Paul Weston be appointed as the Council’s planning consultant in respect of the Plan.

The Council accepted the recommendation of the Working Group to invite Mr Robert Lennis to join the group as a lay member. It also agreed to work to a schedule whereby the Plan Area could be discussed at the Borough Management Committee meeting on 3rd September.

2428 – CAR PARKING ON THE ISLAND

Members discussed a motion in two parts presented by Cllr. Wild.

In respect of the first part Cllr. Tim Munro proposed some alternative wording, which was **RESOLVED** – that the Town Council is dismayed at the lack of opportunity given it by the Borough Council to discuss the proposals regarding the parking review for the Borough and its impact on Portland.

The second part of the motion in respect of specific parking areas on the Island did not receive a seconder and therefore fell.

2429 – COUNCIL CHAIRS AND TABLES

Cllr. Tim Munro proposed a composite motion, which was **RESOLVED** that:-

- a) Formal Council Leather-Backed Chairs and Tables – No action to be taken.
- b) Smoker’s Bow/Captain’s Chairs – The chairs be treated at the price quoted.
- c) Leather-Seated “Dining Chairs” – The chairs be retained without any need for treatment.
- d) Wooden “Kitchen” Chairs – If they belong to the Town Council they should be offered for sale.
- e) Trestle Table – It should be folded up and put in storage.
- f) Darker Brown Table to the Left of the Chamber – It should be disposed of.
- g) New Chairs for the Chamber – No action to be taken.

2430 – REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

There were none.

2431 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

There were none.

2432 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 14th August 2013 starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

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