

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH JULY 2016
IN PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE

PRESENT: Councillors R. Nowak (Chairman), Ms J. Atwell, Mrs S. Cocking, C. Flack, C. Gover, Ms S. Lees, Mrs S. Reynolds, A. Sergison, D. Symes, D. Thurston, Mrs S. West and R. Wild.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. Chris Briggs (Mayor's Chaplain), Cllrs. Paul Kimber and Kate Wheller (both Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), Andy Matthews (Neighbourhood Plan Working Group) and one member of the public.

3207 – CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Cllr. Nowak welcomed all to the meeting and advised of fire precautions at the hall.

3208 – PRAYERS

Rev. Chris Briggs led the meeting in prayer.

3209 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. G. Chadwick.

3210 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3211 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

There was no representative of the Police present.

b) Public Half-Hour

Mr Matthews advised that the Council would now be in receipt of £15,000 worth of grants for the Neighbourhood Plan this year.

c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr. Kimber reported that the last meeting of the Youth Club had been held. The Chairman of the County Council, John Wilson, had died. Cllr. Kimber also sought help in starting a Friends of Tophill Library group.

Cllr. Kate Wheller commented on the forthcoming local government reorganisation in Dorset as a member of the group, Shaping Dorset's Future. Because of the need for a wider input they were approaching both the district and parish councils. It appeared that the parish and town councils would be the only ones that would continue through the reorganisation process. For its part the County was keen to use its building stock for wider community purposes. Cllr. Wheller also said that more libraries might close and it was possible they would be offered to the respective parishes.

Cllr. Nowak commented that the Council hoped to have a speaker on reorganisation at its August meeting.

Cllr. West reported that the Islanders Club would be holding an event to showcase the Club.

Cllr. Nowak reported that Borough councillors were being encouraged to launch new projects. Meanwhile he had had to remind members that three of their previous decisions had not been acted on, obtaining s.106 money from Comer Homes, the neglected property in Fortuneswell High Street and the provision of more litter bins.

3212 – MINUTES

a) Annual Town Council Meeting, 17th May 2016

b) Adjourned Town Council Meeting, 18th May 2016

d) Town Council Meeting, 29th June 2016

Each set of minutes was formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

c) Town Council Meeting, 15th June 2016

The minutes were not yet available.

3213 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Annual Town Council Meeting, 17th May 2016

There were no matters arising.

b) Adjourned Town Council Meeting, 18th May 2016

Cllr. Nowak raised a number of queries:-

i) Minute 3171 – Terms of References for Committees

These had not yet been drafted.

ii) Minute 3172(b) – Events & Tourism Working Group

It had not met recently.

iii) Minute 3174 – Jubilee Pillars

Checks on ownership had not yet been carried out.

iv) Minute 3176 – West Weares

The effect of the options on the insurance premium remained to be confirmed.

c) Town Council Meeting, 15th June 2016

Not applicable.

d) Town Council Meeting, 29th June 2016

There were no matters arising.

3214 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN

There were none.

3215 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. West made reference to the Somme Anniversary service, the Spirit of Portland Festival and a B-Side choral event.

3216 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 3503 – 3504, 3519 and 3529 – 3549) in the sum of £5,479.10 including VAT be authorised for payment.

b) 2016/17 Financial Report to 30th June 2016

Asked about the Borough's payment of £50,000, the Clerk said it had not been received and agreed to pursue it.

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted.

c) High Interest Account

Referring to the proposed new account with Unity Trust Bank Cllr. Cocking said an application form had been sent.

RESOLVED – (i) that £30,000 be invested in a six-month Lloyds account and (ii) that the £50,000 payable by the Borough Council and the proceeds of the Nationwide Building Society account be invested in a Nationwide six-month account.

3217 – COUNCIL OFFICES

a) General Issues

Cllr. Nowak reported that the final figure for the auction of council property was not yet available, but would be provided for the next meeting.

b) Mayors' Plaques, Existing and Future

Cllr. Nowak said he had enquired of Portland Parish whether they would be interested in displaying the existing stone plaque and was waiting for a response.

He also proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the Council proceed with obtaining a wooden plaque to record the succeeding names of Town Mayors.

It was clarified that no provision for recording Council Chairmen would be made at this time.

c) Winding up of Exit Strategy Working Group

Cllr. Nowak proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the Exit Strategy Group be ended.

Cllr. Thurston noted some concern about the current incomplete state of the middle office. Cllr. Cocking reported that quotations for electrical work at the Offices had been received.

3218 – WORKING GROUPS

Cllr. Nowak observed that the Human Resources and IT Working Group had not functioned in recent months, but accepted no change could be made at present because the Groups had only been reviewed in May. However it was agreed to offer a rescinding motion at the next meeting.

3219 – WEST WEARES

Members discussed various aspects of the Council's present and possible responsibilities at the site. Cllr. Cocking said she had received a report from Turrells on the lighting there.

RESOLVED – (a) that a quotation be obtained for cutting the grass at both West Weares and Cheyne Weares, and (b) that the Council proceed with letting a two-year contract for grass-cutting at the two sites combined.

RESOLVED – that the Council take responsibility for maintaining and insuring the benches, murals and lighting on the site and place there a sign. “This is sponsored by Portland Town Council.”

3220 – GRANT PROCEDURES, 2016/17

RESOLVED – that the existing procedures remain unchanged.

3221 – FUNDING OPTIONS AND POSSIBLE PROJECTS

It was reported that the Borough was now employing two people to issue spot fines for littering and dog mess, though they were working chiefly in Weymouth town centre.

Cllr. Reynolds said she had learned that employees at the neighbouring Co-op were voluntarily giving their time to tend Easton Gardens.

It was proposed by Cllr. Gover and **RESOLVED** – that Rachel Barton be directed to work on the proposed projects to promote Easton and Victoria Gardens, while keeping in reserve the other two suggestions in her report.

3222 – PLANNING MEETINGS

RESOLVED – to accept the recommendations to purchase a projector and portable screen for use at planning meetings and as otherwise required.

3223 – CHEYNE WEARES

RESOLVED – that no action be taken over the suggestion of a width notice at the entrance.

3224 – MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

The report was noted.

3225 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

Cllr. Wild reported on a recent DAPTC meeting at which representatives of Dorset Highways had delivered a talk and printed report. This was to clarify the types of work Dorset Highways were prepared to carry out and not to undertake. Tasks that would not be carried out included cleaning road signs, replacing non-essential signs and grass-cutting by the roadside. However it was stated that if a council is prepared to organise a working group for a specific job they will provide a supervisor, tools and removal of rubbish, including at weekends.

Cllrs. Lees spoke of her recent visit to a meeting of the Jurassic Coast Forum, where the members were attempting to get communities to work together, not least in respect of providing mutual publicity for each others' tourism endeavours.

3226 – EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

“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 Agenda Item 11(a) – Council Offices: General Issues, including authorisation of further expenditure by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.”

3227 – COUNCIL OFFICES: GENERAL ISSUES (Continued)

Cllr. Cocking provided details of various quotations that had been received for electrical work at the Council Offices.

RESOLVED – that the company nominated carry out work to the power boards as a first priority, to be followed by the other items specified, excluding that involving heating at the property.

The Chairman ruled that he was not prepared to accept discussion of the Clerk’s confidential report.

3228 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 17th August 2016, at the Peter Trim Hall, St. George’s Centre, Reforne starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm.

Signed Dated.....
(Chair)