

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19TH JUNE 2013

PRESENT: Councillors L. Ames (Chair), Mrs R. Barton, Mrs S. Bradley, R. Denton-White, R. Hughes, Miss A. Munro, T. Munro, R. Nowak (from 8.00pm), R. Wild and T. Woodcock.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. Tim Gomm (Mayor's Chaplain), Councillor Paul Kimber (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council and Dorset County Council) and two members of the public.

2390 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

2391 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Mrs E. Munro-Price and I. Munro-Price, together with Sgt. Ged Want.

2392 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none at this stage. See also Minute 2400.

2393 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

Cllr. Denton-White requested that Agenda Items 16 – Island Caretaker(s) and 18 – Council Vacancies be taken immediately after Agenda Item 9 – Visitor Centre Sub-Committee Meeting. Cllr. Tim Munro requested that Agenda Item 14 – Reports from Borough and County Councillors be taken as next business. All three changes were accepted.

2394 – REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Kimber gave a report although he had not been briefed to do so. He drew attention to two Borough meetings in the near future, a Planning meeting on 26th June to consider an application for the Island Academy and a special meeting of the Management Committee to discuss the future of the Weymouth Pavilion.

With regard to the County Cllr. Kimber said he was receiving a strenuous induction process. He had already made representations on the preservation of Footpath 34 and was grateful for the lead the Town Council had given in this respect.

He said both he and Cllr. Kate Wheller were willing to provide regular reports to the Town Council at its meetings and this offer was accepted.

Cllr. Kimber went on to express his concerns about the level of provision of youth and social services by the County Council.

Cllr. Tim Munro asked Cllr. Kimber whether more money was being spent on highways and whether expenditure on the Chickerell scheme was valid at this time.

He also questioned the need for local road works, which he thought many people regarded as disruptive and unnecessary.

Cllr. Kimber commented on the proliferation of pot-holes and agreed to provide further reports on the subjects raised.

2395 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

Cllr. Woodcock referred to car repairs being carried out on the highway outside the garage at Victoria Square. The Clerk was asked to inform the Police of this matter.

The Clerk drew attention to e-mails received from Sgt. Want and the Police & Crime Commissioner's secretary.

b) Public Half-Hour

Mr Matthews requested permission to speak under Agenda Item 15 – Neighbourhood Plan. This was granted by the Chair.

2396 – MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22ND MAY 2013

Minute 2384(b) – Internal Auditor's Report, 2012/13

Cllr. Tim Munro requested that the word "questioned" replace "criticised" in the text. This was agreed. With this amendment the minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

2397 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Minute 2384(a) – Payments for Authorisation

The Clerk explained that he was presenting a revised schedule for the May payments. He had wrongly assumed the reduced insurance premium covering all three years had to be paid in full. However Zurich only required payment for the first year and so the total of payments on the schedule had fallen to £4,570.73 including VAT.

RESOLVED – that the amended schedule be authorised.

b) Minute 2385 – Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies and Voluntary Posts

Cllr. Tim Munro asked whether the letter to Weymouth & Portland Community Partnership Board had been written. The Clerk agreed to check.

2398 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

2399 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR

None had been received.

2400 – VISITOR CENTRE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING, 20TH MAY 2013

Cllr. Barton declared an interest as a voluntary member of Portland Community Partnership. She was concerned about the possible burden of a full repairing lease on the Town Council and thought the Community Partnership were better placed to run the Centre.

Cllr. Tim Munro spoke of the necessary commercial interest in operating the Centre and was also concerned about the maintenance liability with the building currently admitting water through a leak in the roof.

Cllr. Denton-White proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the Council request the Crown Estate to arrange for a building survey of the Visitor Centre at the Bill and forward a copy of the surveyor's report to the Council, at no cost to the Council. This was carried on the casting vote of the Chair.

Members then discussed the second recommendation. Cllr. Woodcock proposed that "two" be replaced by "interested." Cllr. Tim Munro suggested further changes to the wording and proposed the following, that the Council request of the Estate a meeting with interested parties regarding the future of the Tourist Information Centre. This was **RESOLVED**.

2401 – ISLAND CARETAKER(S)

As Chair of the Working Group Cllr. Barton presented a verbal report on their deliberations. She had draft copies of the job description and advertisement, but in the event copies of these were not circulated to members. Instead Cllr. Barton read out the advertisement wording for the Council's consideration and approval.

It was proposed by Cllr. Barton and **RESOLVED** – that the Council proceed with making the appointment of an Island Caretaker(s) and place an advertisement in the Free Portland News.

(Cllr. Denton-White left the meeting at 8.05pm.)

2402 – COUNCIL VACANCIES

The Clerk presented a report, which included an additional paper explaining the mechanics of the Council's, and NALC's, voting system.

It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that the Council vote on the forthcoming vacancies using the procedure in its Standing Orders.

2403 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2884 – 2897) in the sum of £4,542.69 including VAT be authorised for payment.

b) 2013/14 Financial Report to 31st March 2013 (sic)

The Clerk apologised that he had not had time to prepare a report for members.

c) Internal Auditor's Report, 2012/13

There being further correspondence on the subject since the last meeting, Council gave further consideration to the report.

It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that the report not be accepted.

The Clerk was asked to contact the external auditor and inform him of the decision and find out if there were any consequences arising from it.

d) Fixed Interest Account

The Clerk reported that the money set aside had not yet been transferred to a new fixed interest account and explained the reason why.

It was agreed that the money should be reinvested in a twelve-month account with Barclays.

2404 – RISK ASSESSMENT

The Clerk presented a brief report, which was accepted.

2405 – COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

Cllr. Tim Munro requested that this item be deferred. This was not agreed.

After some discussion on the agenda item it was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that the Town Council not take on any extra responsibilities from Weymouth & Portland Borough Council at this time.

2406 – COUNTY MINERAL CORE STRATEGY

The Clerk's report was noted.

2407 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that Portland Port and Osprey Quay be included in the Portland Neighbourhood Plan Area. It was further **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Barton and Mr Matthews attend on the Council's behalf the meeting at the Borough on 1st July to discuss the extent of the Area.

2408 – COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Clerk presented a report on the options available to set up a new website.

It was proposed by Cllr. Woodcock and **RESOLVED** – that parishcouncilwebsite.net be approached to set up the new website.

2409 – MEETINGS AND AGENDAS

Cllr. Nowak briefly identified the issues involved. He proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that a working group investigate the matter and report back to the Council at its September meeting. It was further **RESOLVED** – that the working group consist of Cllrs. Ames, Nowak, Wild and Woodcock.

2410 – VILLAGE GREENS

It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that the request be noted and no donation be made.

2411 – DORSET ASSOCIATION OF PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS AGM, 2013

Cllr. Nowak moved next business, which was **RESOLVED**.

2412 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

There were no reports to hand.

2413 – GARDENING COMPETITION, 2013

In the course of discussing the financial support for this particular competition Cllr. Wild suggested that the general question of providing a Council gardening competition be discussed at a future meeting. The Clerk added that the Christmas Lights competition might be considered at the same time as it was of a similar nature.

It was agreed that the Council provide up to £100 as prizes for this year's gardening competition in addition to the existing financial support given.

2414 – FORWARD PLAN

At the suggestion of the Chair it was agreed that this item no longer be included as a regular feature on the agenda.

2415 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 17th July 2013 starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

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