

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH OCTOBER 2016
IN EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL, EASTON

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Cllrs. Paul Kimber and Kate Wheller (Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), Mr Andy Matthews (Neighbourhood Plan Working Group) and three members of the public.

3269 – CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME

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

3270 – PRAYERS

The Clerk led the meeting in prayer.

3271 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. D. Thurston and Rev. Chris Briggs.

3272 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3273 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

An e-mail had been received from Sgt. Moore explaining the absence of the Police from recent Council meetings and making suggestions for remaining in contact.

b) Public Half-Hour

June Morley said she had not received the confirmation in writing about Easton Gardens previously requested. She also reported that she had contacted the Borough about the sensor-controlled lights in the toilets at the gardens.

c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr. Kimber reported a six-month extension to the round-the-Island bus service. He also said Cllr. Wheller and he were responding to parents’ concerns about IPACA.

Cllr. Wheller said the details of the cost of Island bus service were available and she would try to obtain a copy. She also invited people to respond to the consultation on unitaries. Fifteen thousand replies had been received to date.

As a result of these two contributions the Clerk was asked to proceed with arranging a presentation by the County on grass-cutting services.

Cllr. West advised that several offers had been made for the Fortuneswell offices. She had requested that those responsible for judging the bids consider the purpose intended for the Offices as well as the size of the bid.

As chairman of the Islanders Youth Club she reported that the committee were seeking to increase use of the building. The County's Living and Learning scheme might be one way of achieving that.

3274 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, 14TH SEPTEMBER 2016

The minutes were considered along with two tabled amendments to minutes 3267. These were as follows:-

Minute 3256 – Report from Finance & Staffing Working Group, para 4

“Other issues discussed by the Group were mentioned by Cllr. Cocking. There would be a slight delay in letting the flat. A fire risk assessment had identified some actions that needed to be taken to comply with fire regulations. The Group had suggested that the staff clean the Offices to save costs. It would bring a risk assessment on West Weares to the Town Council meeting in October as well as recommendations regarding security, damp and heating. **RESOLVED** – that the report be received.”

Minute 3267 – Fire Safety Risk Assessment

“It was reported that two quotations had been received for the installation of fire alarms and emergency lighting. Cllr. Cocking proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the quotation from Turrells at £2,832.00 plus VAT be accepted.

It was also agreed, that the Finance & Staffing Working Group would continue to deal with the remaining issues.”

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

3275 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 3275(a) – Internet Banking

Cllr. Cocking said she had not received the explanatory e-mail from the Clerk. The Clerk agreed to resend it.

3276 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN

There were none.

3277 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. West detailed some of the recent events she had attended and those due to occur in November.

3278 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Council Bank Accounts

The report of the Clerk was received.

b) Payments for Authorisation

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices as stated (cheque refs. 300051 – 300074, 3573 and 3577) in the sum of £6,302.95 including VAT be authorised for payment.

c) 2016/17 Financial Report to 30th September 2016

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted.

d) External Auditor's Report

Cllr. Draper asked if the recommendations in the report had been adopted. The Clerk asked for time to consider a response in order to report back at the next meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. Gover and **RESOLVED** – that Council be given a report on the changeover to Internet banking with a view to implementation in December.

e) Council Offices: Auctions

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 Agenda Item 10(e) by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

3279 – FINANCE & STAFFING WORKING GROUP, 4TH OCTOBER 2016

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 Agenda Item 11(a) - (c) by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

3280 – EVENTS & TOURISM WORKING GROUP, 11TH OCTOBER 2016

Cllr. Symes gave a report on the meeting and explained that he had placed an advertisement in the Free Portland News for the event because of the relatively short time available.

RESOLVED – that the Council support Easton Promise as one of its four Lottery-funded events.

RESOLVED – that consideration of the other three events be deferred to the next meeting.

It was also agreed that the next meeting of the Group would be on 25th October 2016.

3281 – DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

Cllr. Symes explained why he was standing down as Deputy Mayor and was thanked by the Mayor, Cllr. West, for all his work in that office.

It was proposed by Cllr. West and **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. David Thurston (who was absent) be appointed Deputy Town Mayor.

3282 – FINANCE & STAFFING WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED – that there be no change in the membership of the Group.

3283 – EVENTS & TOURISM WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED – that Cllr. Symes be appointed as a member of the Group.

3284 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN DORSET

It was proposed by Cllr. Draper and **RESOLVED** – that the Finance & Staffing Working Group take responsibility for monitoring local government reorganisation in Dorset and report every two months to the Council on developments.

3285 – MAYOR’S PLAQUE

Cllr. Nowak declared a non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of the Island of Portland Heritage Trust.

It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – that the Chairman write to the trustees stating the Council’s concern about potential vandalism to the plaque on the outside of Girt Hall and wondering whether an indoor location could be found. Given that, the Council was prepared to accept the trustees’ decision and pay for the cost of transportation and installation.

3286 – FORTUNESWELL OFFICES: DEED OF RECEIPT AND RELEASE

It was proposed by Cllr. Draper and **RESOLVED** – that the Council accept the recommendations of its legal advisor and write to the Borough Council accordingly.

3287 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

Cllr. Wild reported on a recent meeting of DAPTC Central Area Committee, where a Dorset Councils Partnership director had spoken on Dorset council reorganisation. Apparently the possibility of forming a Weymouth & Portland Town Council would not be considered.

3288 – COUNCIL OFFICES: AUCTIONS

RESOLVED – that the Council send a letter to the party concerned requesting that payment be made within ten working days, adding that non-compliance with payment would trigger action through the Small Claims Court.

3289 – FINANCE & STAFFING WORKING GROUP, 4TH OCTOBER 2016

RESOLVED – that the quotations from Turrell Ltd for fire precautions and heating work be accepted.

RESOLVED – that no action be taken on a damp survey be taken until after the heating work has been carried out at the Offices.

3290 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 16th November 2016, at Easton Methodist Church Hall, Easton starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

Signed Dated.....
(Chair)