

**PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013**

**PRESENT:** Councillors T. Munro (Chair), Mrs R. Barton, R. Denton-White, R. Hughes, A. Matthews, Miss A. Munro, R. Nowak, Mrs S. Reynolds and R. Wild.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. T. Gomm (Mayor's Chaplain), Councillor Paul Kimber (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council and Dorset County Council), Sgt. Ged Want (Dorset Police), together with four members of the public.

**2451 – PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

**2452 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. L. Ames, Mrs S. Bradley, Mrs E. Munro-Price and I. Munro-Price.

**2453 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**2454 – OPEN FORUM**

**a) Police Question Time**

Sgt. Want presented an optimistic view in his report, with 8% less anti-social behaviour in the Borough than last year and 5% less crime. He also spoke of the current restructuring of Dorset Police to produce savings between £4m – 8m. Some aspects of policing would necessarily have to be given lower priority, but the number of police on the Island would remain unchanged. It was also intended that the police station would move to shared accommodation at Portland Fire Station, though it would not have a front office facility as now.

Members raised queries about recent trouble at different locations on the Island.

**b) Public Half-Hour**

Mr Gill spoke as one of several residents concerned about the partial infilling by Stone Firms of the railway cutting by Park Road. As a result the footpath had been blocked. Responding from the Chair, Cllr. Tim Munro quoted from an e-mail from the Borough enforcement officer, saying it was a County Council matter. This also stated the view of the County Natural Environment Manager.

Having checked there were no further items to be raised by the public, the Chair allowed the matter to be debated by members as an item which had been scheduled a little later on the agenda.

Cllr. Denton-White proposed that the Council write to the County, supporting the residents in their protests. This motion was **LOST**.

Cllr. Barton proposed an alternative motion, accepting an amendment to it by Cllr. Tim Munro. The composite motion was **RESOLVED** – that the Council write to the County, expressing its dismay at the action of Stone Firms which it considered illegal. The County were to be asked to acknowledge this was illegal and likely to damage the environment, and to request the landfill be removed immediately. Furthermore, speaking in general, the County should also keep this Council informed of all issues affecting rights of way on the Island.

**c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

Cllr. Amanda Munro reported issues involving parking.

Cllr. Kimber said there had been requests for bus services at the bottom of Wakeham and difficulties encountered with the bus stop in Easton had led to it being moved six metres.

He also reported attending a meeting about Blacknor Point and Priory Corner, where footpaths had been blocked in some places. Money was being spent on the creation of bridleways on the Island and the link between Weston Street and Easton.

**2455 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2013**

The minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

**2456 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**a) Minute 2439 (c) – Neighbourhood Plan**

The Clerk reported that Mr Lennis had not yet confirmed his willingness to join the Working Group because of possible complications when he ended his secondment from the Borough.

**b) Minute 2439(d) – Council Chairs and Tables**

The Clerk was asked to send copies of the letter requesting clarification from the Borough to the three Councillors who were members of both Councils.

**c) Minute 2447 – Council Website**

The Clerk reported no meeting yet of the Working Group.

**2457 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

**2458 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR**

**a) Infilling of Railway Cutting, Bottomcombe**

This had already been dealt with under Agenda Item 4(b), Minute 2458(b).

**b) Street Naming**

**RESOLVED** – that the Council had no objection to the proposed name of Windmill Close.

**c) Peer Challenge**

The Clerk had been invited to a session of a week-long investigation into the working of the Borough and West Dorset District Councils. It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that the Clerk attend the session.

**2459 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**a) Payments for Authorisation**

The Clerk drew to members' attention three textual errors in the description of goods and services. With these taken as amended it was **RESOLVED** – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2918 – 2928) in the sum of £2,703.68 including VAT be authorised for payment.

**b) 2013/14 Financial Report to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013**

Cllr. Tim Munro raised questions about the deployment of the contingency sum. He also queried the origin and definition of the discount grant listed under income. The Clerk was asked to report on this at the next meeting. **RESOLVED** – that the report be accepted.

**c) Fixed Interest Account**

The Clerk reported that difficulties in satisfying Barclays' conditions had persisted. In any case their representative had recently told him that a new, comparable bond issue was unlikely to occur in the next few months. His advice therefore was to seek another provider. It was agreed that he should seek to open a fixed interest account with Lloyds, the Council's primary banker.

**d) Annual Return, 2012/13: Qualification of Audit**

It was agreed to take no further action on the external auditor's report. The comments of the Clerk regarding the procedures for future risk assessment were noted.

**2460 – ISLAND CARETAKER**

Because of administrative problems it was agreed to revise the date of the meeting with interested parties to Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> October at the Osprey Leisure Centre from 12.00 to 2.30 pm.

One of two members raised the question of publicising the work of the Island Caretaker through the Island. Cllr. Tim Munro advised delaying this until there was clear evidence of success, a view which seemed to find common acceptance.

It was agreed that Cllr. Barton be responsible for dealing with the media in this respect.

Regarding a suitable logo for the Caretaker members agreed on the wording, "Island Caretaker – Working for Portland," black on a white background.

**2461 – REVIEW OF COUNCIL PROCEDURES, PRINCIPALLY MEETINGS**

It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – that this be progressed through a special, private meeting of Council members.

Cllr. Tim Munro referred to the list of strategic objectives that the Council had adopted during his mayoralty. It was agreed to include the list in the supporting papers supplied to members prior to the meeting, also that Cllr. Nowak chair the meeting.

**2462 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr. Barton gave a brief report on the progress of the Plan. She proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the Memorandum of Agreement be adopted by the Council without further change.

**2463 – COUNCIL LAW AND PROCEDURES**

It was proposed by Cllr. Amanda Munro and **RESOLVED** – that the Council purchase “Local Government Administration” 9<sup>th</sup> Edition and “Local Councils Explained,” and to vire the money from contingencies to cover the cost.

**2464 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS**

There were none.

**2465 – ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Agenda Item 16 – Neighbourhood Plan (continued) was not taken as the matter had already been fully resolved under Agenda Item 12 – Neighbourhood Plan, Minute 2466.

**2466 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013 starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm.

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