

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER 2014
AT EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL

PRESENT: Councillors R. Hughes (Chair), G. Chadwick, Mrs S. Lees, A. Matthews, Miss A. Munro, T. Munro, I. Munro-Price, R. Nowak, Mrs S. Reynolds, J. Thorner and R. Wild.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. James Menzies (Mayor's Chaplain) and ten members of the public.

2675 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

2676 – CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Cllr. Tim Munro expressed disappointment that the tables and chairs had been laid out in a way that some Councillors had their backs to the public and therefore could not be heard properly. The Chair ruled that the layout would remain as it was for the duration of the meeting.

2677 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Mrs S. Bradley, R. Denton-White and Mrs E. Munro-Price.

2678 – WELCOME

The Chair welcomed the newly-elected Councillors, Sue Lees and John Thorner, to their first full Town Council meeting.

2679 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs. Tim Munro, Amanda Munro and Ian Munro-Price declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 10 – Ventnor Road. Cllr. Tim Munro declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 19 – Former Councillor Les Ames as an associate of Cllr. Ames. Cllrs. Chadwick, Amanda Munro, Tim Munro and Ian Munro-Price declared an interest in Agenda Item 21 – Concession for Ice Cream Van at Cheyne Weares, the first non-pecuniary, the others pecuniary.

2680 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

No representatives of the Police were present.

b) Public Half-Hour

Peter Siddons asked if a 20 mph speed limit could be imposed in Fortuneswell to make it easier to exit from the Brackenbury car park. Enquiries will be made.

June Morley asked concerning Cllr. Denton-White and his attendance at recent meetings. The Councillor remains a participating member of the Town Council, is suspended from being a member of its committees and representing the Council for

six months (up to and including 24th December), but may attend meetings as a member of the public.

Jess Nagel asked concerning Agenda Item 10 – Ventnor Road how the decision of the Planning Committee had been reached and whether residents of Ventnor Road had been consulted. She also commended making former Councillor, Les Ames, a freeman of the Island.

Paul Snow expressed concern about people climbing on the Olympic rings at the Heights, particularly that it might result in an insurance claim. Should a disclaimer notice be displayed adjacent to the rings? Cllr. Nowak said the issue had been raised at the Borough Council, requesting that a sign be provided. He would investigate this further.

A lady asked why the Police were not attending the meetings to answer questions. The Chair ventured the opinion that this was a result of the recent cutbacks.

c) Reports from Borough & County Councillors

No County Councillors were present and there were no reports from Borough Councillors.

2681 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16TH JULY 2014

Minute 2656 – Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price requested the addition of Dorset County Council to Kate Wheller's attributions. With this amendment the minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record. (For: 6 votes, Against: 0 votes, Abstentions: 5 votes)

2682 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

a) Minute 2658(b), para 1 – Overgrown Hedges

Cllr. Wild reported that Albion Stone had requested the County to cut its hedges on Easton Lane. Meanwhile he was still pursuing other owners of hedges that constituted a problem.

b) Minute 2658(c), para 4 – Condor Ferries

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price asked whether there was an update. Cllr. Nowak replied that negotiations were continuing, though he had the impression that Condor no longer wanted to use Weymouth for its services.

c) Minute 2660(c) – Neighbourhood Plan

Replying to a question from Cllr. Tim Munro, Cllr. Matthews said the extra overtime to be worked would be covered by the existing budget.

d) Minute 2664 – Discontinuance Notice

Cllr. Tim Munro asked when the Borough Council had been requested to serve the notices on the hoardings in Victoria Square and Fortuneswell. The Clerk undertook to provide a reply.

e) Minute 2665(c) – IT Needs

Responding to Cllr. Tim Munro Cllr. Chadwick said the new computer had been bought and installed. The HR & IT Sub-Committee was still investigating computing options for the administration.

f) Minute 2670 – Crossing Patrol Wardens

The Clerk reported that this issue and one of traffic management at the junction of Castle Road and Lerret Road were still being investigated by the County Road Safety Officers.

2683 – TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor said he had just returned from Germany where he had been involved in an Olympic Legacy Diving Project. Recently he had been invited to attend an art exhibition in Brussels. Finally he publicised his charity pirates’ night event on the following Friday.

2684 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR

Paul Snow had written concerning Cllr. Denton-White sitting with members of the Finance & Resources Committee at a recent meeting. It was acknowledged that a clear distinction needed to be made between those qualified to sit as members of a particular committee and those not.

2685 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

Cllr. Tim Munro queried the purchase of a new laser printer without authorisation. The Clerk explained that the old one had stopped working and he thought it important to obtain a replacement quickly to maintain the facility. However he acknowledged he should have sought senior member approval first. The Mayor volunteered to pay for the printer personally.

Cllr. Munro also queried a late filing charge from HM Revenue & Customs. The Clerk said this applied to Construction Industry Scheme returns applying to the former Island Caretaker, of which he had only recently been advised.

Cllr. Wild proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the schedule of invoices excluding the payment to HMRC (cheque refs. 3148 – 3154, 3156 - 3166) in the sum of £2,634.54 including VAT be authorised for payment. (8-3-0)

b) 2014/15 Financial Report to 31st August 2014

There were queries about the furniture & equipment and Neighbourhood Plan figures from Cllr. Tim Munro. Cllr. Ian Munro-Price voiced concerns about the budget, saying there was a need to take a formal look at areas of potential overspending.

Cllr. Munro proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the report be noted. (11-0-0)

2686 – PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING, 27TH AUGUST 2014

Minute 2213(c) – Ventnor Road

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price opened the debate saying that while the traffic flow was reversed along Ventnor Road, coming out of it into Fortuneswell was more dangerous than from the Brackenbury car park. It had also made parking more awkward.

Cllr. Thorner though less problems would arise if no right turn was allowed from Guernsey Street into Spring Gardens, while Cllr. Tim Munro couldn’t see a problem with the usual traffic arrangements.

It was proposed by Cllr. Hughes and **RESOLVED** – that the recommendation of the Planning Committee be rejected.

It was further proposed by Cllr. Hughes and **RESOLVED** - that the Council write to Dorset Highways, highlighting the problems involved.

2687 – ADDITIONAL FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING, 8TH SEPTEMBER 2014

a) Future Events

Cllr. Chadwick proposed the Christmas Cracker Night recommendation with amendments and it was **RESOLVED** – that the Town Council becomes involved in Easton Promise Night, if it is invited. (11-0-0)

It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that the Civic Calendar of Events organised by the Council be posted on the website. (11-0-0)

b) Bonfire Night and Firework Event

Cllr. Chadwick explained the thinking behind the event and the intended financing. Cllr. Tim Munro queried the underwriting of any loss that might be incurred. After further discussion Cllr. Chadwick said he would withdraw his proposal and hold the event privately himself. However he would ask the Council to consider a similar event next year.

c) Staffing Review

Cllr. Matthews explained how the selection process had been carried out and the recommended choice of consultant.

Cllr. Chadwick proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the Council proceed with financing the first part of the review employing Consultant C. (10-1-0)

(Cllr. Amanda Munro left the meeting at 9.35 pm.)

2688 – BUSINESS OF MEETING

RESOLVED – that the meeting continue. (7-3-0)

2689 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that agenda item 15 be taken before item 12.

2690 – INTEGRATING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETINGS WITH THOSE OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that the two meetings be held on the same evening for a trial period of three months, the Management Group meeting from 6.30 to 7.30 pm, Planning from 7.30 onwards on the fourth Wednesday of the month. (10-0-0)

2691 – APPOINTMENTS

RESOLVED – that the following appointments be made:-

a) Neighbourhood Plan Management Group

Cllrs. Chadwick, Hughes and Lees (10-0-0)

b) Events and Tourism Sub-Committee

Cllr. Lees

c) Portland Quarries Liaison Group

Cllr. Thorner

2692 – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

It was agreed that Cllr. Reynolds would contact the Royal British Legion to discuss the arrangements for the forthcoming event.

(Cllr. Ian Munro-Price left the meeting at 10.00 pm.)

2693 – MEETING AND VENUES

Cllr. Wild reported that he had put a number of questions to the Borough about the Town Council's accommodation without receiving a reply to date.

Cllr. Nowak reiterated that the Borough had decided to sell the Town Council Offices and rehouse the Council. He thought that because of the Borough's poor management of buildings it should pay for the Town Council's hiring of halls.

Various suggestions were made by members of alternative venues for Council meetings.

2694 – FORMER COUNCILLOR LES AMES

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Ames be made an Honorary Freeman of the Island. (8-1-0)

(Cllr Thorner left the meeting at 10.35 pm.)

2695 – COUNCIL GRANTS, 2014/15

It was agreed that the Finance and Resources Committee be responsible for progressing this matter.

2696 – APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITS

RESOLVED – that Darkin-Miller Associates be reappointed as internal auditor for 2014/15. (8-0-0)

(Cllr. Nowak left the meeting at 10.40 pm.)

2697 – BUSINESS OF MEETING

The remaining business was postponed.

2698 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 19th November 2014 in Easton Methodist Church Hall, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 10.40 pm.

Signed Dated
(Chair)