

## PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

### ADDITIONAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015 AT EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL

**PRESENT:** Councillors R. Hughes (Chair), G. Chadwick, R. Denton-White, Ms S. Lees, A. Matthews, Miss A. Munro, R. Nowak, Mrs S. Reynolds, J. Thorner and R. Wild.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. James Menzies (Mayor's Chaplain) Sgt Steve Yeoman (Dorset Police) together with Cllr. Penny McCartney (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council) and five members of the public

#### **2735 – PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

#### **2736 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

#### **2737 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Matthews declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 – Procurement of External Funding.

#### **2738 – OPEN FORUM**

##### **a) Police Question Time** (additional item)

Sgt Yeoman gave a brief introduction to himself on his first visit to a Council meeting.

Cllr. Thorner expressed the wish for a more visible police on the Island. Sgt Yeoman sympathised with that, but said the Police's primary aim was to bring crime figures down, which was not always compatible.

Cllr. Chadwick complained about the use of sirens in the confines of Fortuneswell in the early hours of the morning. Sgt Yeoman took the point and said that whether it applied to police or paramedics, there was a need to exercise common sense.

Cllr. Denton-White raised the subject of the 101 call system, suggesting the use of texting to follow up on calls. Sgt Yeoman undertook to take the idea further.

##### **(b) Public Half-Hour**

June Morley asked whether next year's precept had been decided and when would the Council notify the amount to residents. Cllr. Matthews explained that the Council had not yet completed its survey of residents regarding their wishes for the precept, the meeting that evening was part of the process and a final decision would be made at Council's meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February.

Paul Snow said he had been told that April was the deadline for submission of the precept amount and drew attention to the fact that the majority of people responding to the survey was against any increase in the precept. Various Councillors sought to give a response.

Peter Sneddon queried whether the final decision on IPACA was an expression of democracy. Cllrs. Wild and Hughes said that both the Town Council and the Borough had voted against the planning application, but the Inspector had found in favour of the Academy at the appeal and there was nothing further that the Town Council could do.

#### **2739 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014**

The minutes were formally approved and signed as a correct record. (For: 9 votes, Against: 0 votes, Abstentions: 1 vote)

#### **2740 – MATTERS ARISING**

##### **a) Minute 2702(b), para 3 – Ventnor Road**

Cllr. Wild asked whether Dorset Highways had replied. The Clerk will check.

##### **b) Minute 2702(b), para 4 – Rubbish Collection**

Cllr. Lees reported that the meeting with Dorset Waste Partnership had been well attended by Portland people.

##### **c) Minute 2704(a) – Fortuneswell Speed Limit**

Cllr. Chadwick asked whether the County had replied. The Clerk agreed to check.

##### **d) Minute 2704(c) – Condor Ferries**

Cllr. Denton-White asked about the repairs sought for Weymouth Harbour. Cllr. Nowak replied that the Borough could not afford the £10m required, but this might lead to an another outcome that was financially more beneficial for the borough.

##### **e) Minute 2707(c) – Fixed Interest Account**

Cllr. Wild asked whether there had been any progress. The Clerk said that with the resignation of the Assistant Clerk and his own recent absence this had not been possible.

##### **f) Minute 2709 – Cheyne Weares**

Cllr. Lees expressed concern that the posts were still in place. Cllr. Chadwick hoped to be able to remove them at the following weekend.

#### **2741 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014**

The minutes were formally approved and signed as a correct record. (8–0–2)

#### **2742 – MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

### **2743 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2014**

Cllr. Wild asked that the word “District” in Minute 2732, para 2 be amended to read “Borough.” With this alteration the minutes were formally approved and signed as a correct record. (10–0–0)

### **2744 – MATTERS ARISING**

#### **Minute 2732, para 3 – Request for Parish Poll**

Cllr. Lees thanked the Clerk for a correcting note.

### **2745 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

#### **Payments for Authorisation**

**RESOLVED** – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 3225 – 3232) in the sum of £1,669.44 including VAT be authorised for payment. (10-0-0)

### **2746 – 2015/16 BUDGET & PRECEPT**

Cllr. Matthews presented his report. He said that he had not looked at options within the staffing review, so the figures did not allow for the staffing recommendations that had been made.

Cllr. Denton-White proposed an increase in the precept of £10 in line with the recommendation of the staffing review. Cllr. Matthews commented that part of that increase was earmarked for implementing the staffing recommendations, but not all.

Cllr. Chadwick proposed no increase in the precept, using the council’s reserves to build up its infrastructure and then, having done that, to assess its future needs.

Cllr. Lees asked for clarification of the Island Caretaker situation. Cllr. Matthews answered that provision of £15,000 had been included in the non-core element of the budget.

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** - that the precept be set within lower and upper limits of zero and £10 Band D increases. This decision would then be referred to the next meeting of the Finance & Resources Committee for further scrutiny. (10-0-0)

### **2747 – GRIT BINS SUPPORT**

Cllr. Lees undertook to refill the Council’s grit bins as required from the beginning of February. She asked to be provided with a list of grit bin sites.

### **2748 – ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**RESOLVED** – that agenda item 10 – Procurement of External Funding be taken after item 18. (10-0-0)

### **2749 – MAYOR’S BADGE**

Cllr. Hughes added briefly to the written report, saying that he was in the process of obtaining two quotations for a replacement badge with the same image for the benefit of the Council’s insurers.

Members then debated the design they would prefer when the replacement badge was actually produced. It was proposed by Cllr. Lees and **RESOLVED** – that the current 1895 image be retained. (8-2-0)

#### **2750 – MAY COUNCIL DATES**

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that the following meeting dates be adopted:-

Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 – (Ordinary) Town Council Meeting  
Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015 – Annual Town Council Meeting (Mayor-Making)

#### **2751 – STANDING ORDERS & FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

Cllr. Matthews reported that the Clerk had passed to him his (the Clerk's) comparison of the Council's Standing Orders with what is now NALC's old model set, which leaves him to update it for NALC's new model set.

#### **2752 – ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**RESOLVED** – that agenda item 14 – administrative Workload & Additional Staffing Provision be taken after item 10. (8-2-0)

(Cllr. Amanda Munro left the meeting at 8.30 pm.)

#### **2753 – VENTNOR ROAD**

Cllr. Chadwick was seeking an explanation from Cllr. Tim Munro over remarks he had made about traffic (see also Minutes 2686 and 2703(f)). In Cllr. Munro's absence it was agreed that the item be carried forward to the next meeting.

#### **2754 – LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME & DAPTC ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2015**

After a short discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – that the Council proceed to its next item of business. (6-2-0)

#### **2755 – COUNCILLORS' NEWS FROM THE WARDS**

Cllr. Chadwick highlighted an example involving grit bins where poor communication between members had led to problems. He therefore proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the above heading be included as a standard item on future Council meeting agendas and that County and Borough Councillors be asked to provide written reports henceforth. (9-0-0)

#### **2756 – “GHOST” TUNNELS**

Cllr. Chadwick was concerned about the bricking up of three tunnels at High Angle Battery. Cllr. Nowak understood the Borough had carried this out to prevent unauthorised parties occurring within the tunnels. Cllr Chadwick said this action had been taken without consultation.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Borough for more details, to express the Council's concern and to ask concerning the Borough's future plans for the site.

**2757 – EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**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 items 10 and 14, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

(The aural recording of the meeting ended at 8.50 pm)

**2758 - PROCUREMENT OF EXTERNAL FUNDING**

The consultant concerned had made an unsolicited approach to the Council offering a service. It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that the issue be referred to the Finance & Resources Committee for a working group of all Councillors to consider after the elections in May. (9-0-0)

The Clerk was asked to reply formally to the consultant.

**2759 – ADMINISTRATIVE WORKLOAD AND ADDITIONAL STAFFING PROVISION**

**RESOLVED** – that the Council staff proceed with carrying out those of the “Long-Term Outstanding Tasks” allocated to them. Overtime could be charged up to the estimated number of hours without further reporting.

Cllr. Matthews drew attention to the need for a reserves policy in the Risk Assessment and Review list of tasks and was requested to bring it to Finance & Resources.

It was agreed that steps be taken to expedite the second list of tasks in the second section and the Clerk report back for Council’s further consideration.

Off-topic, the Clerk was asked to record the general feeling of the meeting that all members be allowed to speak on the 2015/16 budget and precept item at the next Finance & Resources meeting.

**2760 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.25 pm.

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