

## PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

### ADDITIONAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016 AT 7.00 PM IN EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL, EASTON

**PRESENT:** Councillors R. Nowak (Chairman), Ms J. Atwell, G. Chadwick, Mrs S. Cocking, C. Flack, C. Gover, Ms S. Lees (from 7.10 pm), Mrs S. Reynolds, D. Symes, D. Thurston, Mrs S. West and R. Wild

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

#### **3053 – PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

#### **3054 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs J. Draper and A. Sergison.

#### **3055 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **3056 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Richard Denton-White referred to the need to ensure all Council staff were receiving the Living Wage at least and cover the costs arising from transferring the Council to new accommodation. These factors would necessitate some increase in the Council's precept for the coming year. He also expressed concern about the Council's accommodation problem, referring to the forty-year-old arrangement with the Borough, stating that the Borough had "almost a statutory obligation to provide accommodation."

#### **3057 – COUNCIL OFFICES**

From the chair Cllr. Nowak referred to the Borough's notice for the Town to quit its Offices in early June and hoped the Town Council could reopen negotiations.

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that the Council's resolution on the Borough's offer of the Council Offices be rescinded. (For: 7 votes, Against: 4 votes, Abstentions: 1 vote)

Answering a question from Cllr. West, the Clerk confirmed the Talking Newspaper people were moving from the Offices to a new location.

Cllr. Nowak led members through the current accommodation issues and options the Council might pursue. He noted the growing possibility that Weymouth might move soon to a town or parish council arrangement and any provision made by the Borough should similarly apply to Portland Town Council.

It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – that the Chairman, his Deputy and the Clerk attempt to reopen negotiations with the Borough on obtaining accommodation. In the meantime the Council Chairman, Chairman of the Finance

Working Group and Clerk should seek out available alternative accommodation immediately. (12-0-0)

**3058 – EXTERNAL FUNDING SUPPORT**

Cllr. Chadwick presented his concerns about the tendering process that had been followed, to which Cllr. Cocking responded.

It was proposed by Cllr. Thurston that the Council’s decision of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015 (Minute 3049) should stand and the Council proceed accordingly.

Cllr. Chadwick put forward an amendment that guidelines and accountability should be put in place to govern how the work was carried out.

In the course of the subsequent discussion the amendment was withdrawn.

**RESOLVED** – that Council’s decision of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015 stand and the Council proceed accordingly. (9-3-0)

**3059 – BUDGET AND PRECEPT, 2016/17**

Cllr. Cocking suggested the Finance Working Group review the budget at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January and bring back recommendations, which was agreed.

From the chair Cllr. Nowak undertook to write an article for the February edition of the Free Portland News, first sending a draft to members for comment and approval.

**3060 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.

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