

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

ADDITIONAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH MARCH 2015 AT EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL

PRESENT: Councillors R. Hughes (Chair), Mrs S. Bradley, G. Chadwick, R. Denton-White, Ms S. Lees, A. Matthews, Mrs S. Reynolds and R. Wild.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. James Menzies (Mayor's Chaplain), Rosie Darkin (Internal Auditor), and six members of the public

2779 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

2780 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Miss A. Munro, T. Munro, Mrs E. Munro-Price, I. Munro-Price, R. Nowak and Mrs P. McCartney (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council).

2781 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Matthews declared his position as Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and a personal interest in the Portland Parish Dementia Group for Men.

2782 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

No representative of the Police was present.

b) Public Half-Hour

Susan Cocking spoke regarding planning application 15/127/FUL – Land to the rear of 62-64 Weston Street. She was critical of the scheme, alleging that a hedgerow had been deliberately destroyed on the site and a wildlife habitat disturbed, contrary to legal requirements.

Martin Luther raised the subject of traffic flow along the south side of Easton Square and problems caused in relation to deliveries outside Boots. He suggested the double yellow lines be replaced by special red ones. Mr Luther was asked to submit his proposals in writing so that the Planning Committee could consider it further.

c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors

There were none present.

2783 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18TH FEBRUARY 2015

Minute 2770 – 2015/16 Budget & Precept

It was noted that the list of members for the motion should have included "Lees" rather than "Lee."

With this amendment the minutes were formally approved and signed as a correct record. (For: 8 votes, Against: 0 votes, Abstentions: 0 vote)

2784 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 2764(b), para 5 – Rubbish in Grove Road

The Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to Dorset Highways.

2785 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. Hughes reported that the Council's insurers had given approval for a replacement badge to be made as a close replica of the original.

As Town Mayor he would be holding an Alice in Wonderland themed party at the Aqua Hotel, the last fund-raising event of this year.

The flagpole had been reinstated on the roof of the Council Offices.

2786 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR

There were none.

2787 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

The Clerk noted that the website site charge referred to the Neighbourhood Plan and Cllr. Matthews said that Mr Weston had half a day's work left in relation to the Plan.

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 3155, 3247 – 3260) in the sum of £3,804.79 including VAT be authorised for payment. (8-0-0)

b) 2014/15 Financial Report to 28th February 2015

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted (8-0-0)

2788 – 2015/16 BUDGET & PRECEPT

Cllr. Matthews spoke to his report. The Clerk expressed the view that some headings, advertising, IT support and furniture & equipment for example, were underbudgetted.

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that the Neighbourhood Plan be funded out of reserves. (8-0-0)

It was further proposed and **RESOLVED** – that the Island Caretaker budget for 015/16 be used to offset a deficit of £2,189 and form a contingency budget. (8-0-0)

2789 – VENTNOR ROAD TRAFFIC FLOW

The Clerk confirmed that one e-mail had been received from Cllr. Tim Munro in response to the Council's letter. This had been circulated to all members, but no further response had been supplied.

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Tim Munro had brought the Council into disrepute by condoning the breaching of road traffic law in respect of

Ventnor Road and was holding the Council in contempt by not providing a formal reply to its concerns either at a Council meeting or by letter. (8-0-0)

It was further proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Tim Munro be suspended from all Council committees and working groups, and representing the Council on outside bodies for the remaining term of the present Council. (8-0-0)

2790 – INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDITS

Mrs Darkin answered questions from members as far as was within her remit as internal auditor. Asked by Cllr. Denton-White whether the Council was being run properly in financial terms she said there were three areas where she thought financial controls were not yet being exercised, in respect of risk assessment, the petty cash account and bank reconciliations.

Regarding financial management the Council was ultimately responsible and there was a need to ensure that sufficient resources and training were being deployed.

2791 – RESERVES POLICY

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that the Council adopt the suggested policy as drafted with the indicative values set out in the attached agenda paper. (8-0-0)

2792 – RISK ASSESSMENT

Cllr. Matthews presented a draft assessment with items identified for the new Council to consider in June. He thought that the Mayor and Deputy should be more deeply involved in making the assessment.

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that the Council review the risk assessment in June.

2793 – MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP MEETING, 4TH MARCH 2015

Members discussed the recommendations presented by the Partnership. Cllr. Chadwick argued that the money could not be donated on a third party basis. Cllr. Denton-White advocated a formal policy on grass-cutting. It was agreed that the item be raised again with the new Council.

2794 – EVENTS & TOURISM SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING, 29TH OCTOBER 2014

It was proposed by Cllr. Denton-White and **RESOLVED** – a) that an Open Garden competition be held next summer; b) that the Ceremony of the Keys take place on Sunday, 29th September 2014 at the same time and venue as in 2014; c) that Cllr. Nowak be appointed as a member of this Sub-Committee (now Working Group)

2795 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

It was agreed that Agenda Item 17 – Council Grants, 2014/15 be taken after Item 26.

2796 – INVESTMENT ADVICE

The Clerk presented his report and advised that a specification was being written to instruct the two companies invited.

2797 – SEPARATION OF TOWN MAYOR & CHAIRMAN ROLES

After debate it was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that this Council recommends to the new Council – that it appoints a Chairman of the Council for successive terms of two years in addition to the Mayor, the Mayor acting as Deputy Chairman. (5-2-1)

2798 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr. Matthews reported that Paul Weston had been commissioned again, this time to conduct an appraisal of the practical results produced so far by the Working Group as a “critical friend.” He also noted that further grants would be available next year for councils to progress their Plans. Cllr. Matthews considered that the Island needs a development plan in order to fill gaps in the Borough’s Local Plan.

2799 – COUNCIL REVIEW

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that the Council seek a quotation for the second, future part of the Council Review from Mr Nick Randle’s company in its new embodiment. (8-0-0)

2800 – TEMPORARY ASSISTANT CLERK

The Clerk reported that applications had been received for the vacancy and would be considered by an interview panel consisting of Cllr. Hughes, Cllr. Chadwick and himself.

2801 – MAY MEETING DATES

Members considered the report of the Clerk. It was proposed by Cllr. Denton-White and **RESOLVED** – that the following dates be adopted for Town Council meetings:-

Wednesday, 20 th May	Mayor-Making
Tuesday, 26 th May	Adjourned meeting
Tuesday, 19 th May	Semi-formal induction meeting (private)

2802 – COUNCILLORS’ NEWS FROM THE WARDS

Cllr. Hughes advised that diggers were getting close to the windmills and causing a nuisance in terms of vibrations.

Cllr. Chadwick reported that the new dog bins were being well used. No quotation had been received in this respect from the Waste Partnership. Meanwhile rubbish collection in Underhill and fly-tipping remained problems.

Cllr. Lees had attended a meeting of the Dorset Access Forum. One of its intentions was to identify disabled-friendly routes on the Island.

Cllr. Wild said further information was being collected for the Resilience Plan, which it was intended to copy to the Police.

2803 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

Cllr. Wild reported he had attended the DAPTC training session for people thinking about standing as councillors. There had been some response but not from anyone on the Island.

2804 – EXCLUSION OF PRESS & 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 Item 17 – Council Grant, 2014/15 – by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

2805 – COUNCIL GRANTS, 2014/15

RESOLVED – (1) that Victim Support be awarded a grant of £340, provided it be used to train a Portlander who would be working predominantly on the Island, (8-0-0), and (2) Portland Parish Dementia Group for Men be awarded £389.99, (7-0-1).

2806 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 15th April 2015, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.25 pm.

Signed Dated
(Chair)