

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH JANUARY 2015 AT EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL AT 7PM

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs S. Bradley (Chair), G. Chadwick, R. Hughes, A. Matthews, R. Nowak, Mrs S. Reynolds and R. Wild.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk) and Cllr. Ms S. Lees, together with four members of the public

75 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

76 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair accepted that all had a pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 – 2015/16 Budget and Precept, but allowed each a dispensation to debate and vote.

77 – PUBLIC HALF HOUR

Cllr. Lees asked what was the current situation regarding hire of halls. Cllr. Nowak said he had confirmed with the Borough it was willing to reimburse the Town Council, but now was waiting for an invoice to authorise.

Cllr. Lees also raised the matter of storing sandbags for flooding emergencies and volunteered a storage area of her own for use. Cllr. Matthews said they were looking at the Lord Clyde site as an alternative. This would need partial reinstatement, but funds might be available to assist.

Paul Snow spoke regarding the 2015/16 budget and precept. He had already complained to the Council about the wording of the consultation survey, which he thought might unbalance the survey. Cllr. Matthews replied that the format had been agreed by Council and could be discussed under the agenda item.

There was a fairly lengthy discussion about the level of Portland's precept and Band D council tax charge, especially compared with other towns in Dorset. Mr Snow voiced the opinion that Portland might well be better off as a parish in West Dorset. It was suggested that he might raise this at the Annual Town Meeting.

78 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH DECEMBER 2014

Minute 71 – New Office Server Computer

Cllr. Chadwick said that in para 5 "Cllr. Nowak" should read "Cllr. Ian Munro-Price." This change was accepted.

With this alteration the minutes were formally approved and signed as an accurate record. (For: 7 votes, Against: 0 votes, Abstention: 0 votes)

79 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

Minute 59(b) – Cheyne Weares

Cllr. Wild reported that he had received a complaint about litter on the site. It was said this would be discussed later in the agenda.

80 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

The Clerk explained that there were four salary-related payments missing from the schedule because of lack of time to deal with them.

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs: 3214 – 3224) in the sum of £1,128.47 including VAT be approved for payment. (7-0-0)

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

Cllr. Matthews spoke to the Clerk's report and his own commentary on it. Cllr. Bradley noted in passing that Mrs Cave had made a new coat for her husband, the Town Crier, at no cost to the Council.

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted. (7-0-0)

81 – MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP MEETING, 3RD DECEMBER 2014

Members discussed the tabled recommendation. George Crook & Sons had written to say they did not have a storage area available. Cllr. Wild said he enquired of the Borough about using the sheds at Victoria Gardens, but had not received a response to date. A mix of empty and filled bags of sand was seen as the best way to allow for deterioration and the urgency of a flooding incident.

82 – 2015/16 BUDGET & PRECEPT

From the Chair Cllr. Bradley expressed the hope that the information provided to residents in the consultation was sufficient for them to understand the reasons for whatever increase in the precept was decided.

Cllr. Matthews spoke to his written report provided at the meeting, explaining the current state of the working draft budget and replies received from the public to date. Details of the discount grant were still awaited from the Borough. He suggested the Council might extend the length of the consultation and add further questions. However it was agreed to take no further action for the time being.

83 – TRANSPARENCY CODE (SMALLER AUTHORITIES)

The Clerk spoke briefly to his report, saying some of the larger towns in Dorset have already made details of payments available on their websites and drawing attention to the extra work involved. No further action was taken.

84 – WORKING FOR A BETTER PORTLAND

Cllr. Chadwick explained that the above was a recently formed group on the Island. It was attempting to deal with the issue of dog-mess. A dumped fridge-freezer had been utilised as a temporary waste-bin for dog-mess. Mr Peter Staddon had set up a system of dog bins around the Island. The problem was to find someone to empty them. The group was also seeking financial support from the Council.

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick, seconded by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – 1) that two other quotations be sought for emptying the bins beside the one awaited from Dorset Waste Partnership, 2) that the Council pay an invoice for the provision of dog bin labels, and 3) that the group apply for further funding as and when required. (7-0-0)

85 – STANDING ORDERS & FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

86 – ADMINISTRATIVE WORKLOAD

87 – ADDITIONAL STAFFING PROVISION

It was proposed by Cllr. Matthews and agreed that these three business items be passed to the Clerk’s Liaison Group to consider, provide recommendations and report back to the Town Council.

88 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 11th February 2015 commencing at 7.00pm

The meeting ended at 8.25pm

SignedDated.....
(Chair)