

**PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018**  
**IN PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE, REFORNE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ray Nowak (Chairman), Susan Cocking, Jim Draper, Charlie Flack, Chris Gover, Lucy Grieve, Sue Lees, David Thurston, Sandy West and Rod Wild.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Dave Farmer (Mayor's Chaplain), Councillor Kate Wheller (Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), Andy Matthews (Neighbourhood Plan Working Group), PCSO Nick Bool (Dorset Police) and eight members of the public.

**3579 – CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

Cllr. Nowak welcomed all to the meeting and advised of fire precautions at the hall.

**3580 – PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

**3581 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Jo Atwell and Sandra Reynolds.

**3582 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**3583 – OPEN FORUM**

**a) Police Question Time**

Cllr. Cocking asked concerning youngsters knocking on doors in Easton. PCSO Bool said the Police were taking the matter very seriously. He had already spoken to two people about their involvement and they hoped to get further information from CCTV cameras in the vicinity.

Cllr. Lees raised the issue of hang-gliders near the Cenotaph and PCSO Bool said they were watching out if this should reoccur.

Cllr. West asked whether there was currently a drug problem on the Island. PCSO Bool replied that the Police did not perceive one as such.

**b) Public Half-Hour**

Cllr. Wild obtained permission for Rev. Tim Gomm to speak on Agenda Item 13 – Brackenbury Infants School.

June Morley recorded her pleasure that Brackenbury was being discussed. She also expressed concern about a possible clash of events on 11<sup>th</sup> August. From the chair Cllr. Nowak said the Events Working Group would review its choice of dates for the Council's Summer Fete.

Paul Snow enquired about contingencies and other items in the 2018/19 Budget and Precept. Cllr. Nowak commended Written Questions for the Chairman as a way of obtaining information and following up on their replies.

Rob Hughes asked whether the Town Council was charging for keeping a supply of Waste Partnership bins. [Answer: No.] He added his approval of the Brackenbury initiative.

### **c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

Cllr. West offered her views on the recent Borough Planning decision concerning Underhill School. She also praised the Waste Partnership for clearing fly-tipped rubbish from Ventnor Road and had been promised action to get the light at the Incline working again.

Cllr. Nowak advised that development at Castletown was progressing and he and Cllr. McCartney were trying to obtain permission for a sign to publicise the Samaritans at the climbers and walkers car park. He also outlined the action being taken by the Borough on properties in Fortuneswell High Street.

### **3584 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

The minutes were formally approved and signed as a correct record.

### **3585 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Cllr. Nowak said there would be a site meeting at Lord Clyde on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

### **3586 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN**

There were none.

### **3587 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr. Flack reported that the civic regalia were with Good As Gold for valuation.

### **3588 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

#### **a) Payments for Authorisation**

**RESOLVED** – that the December schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 300144 – 300147) in the sum of £12,804.93 including VAT be authorised for payment.

**RESOLVED** – that the January schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 300148 – 300149) in the sum of £5,042.23 including VAT be authorised for payment.

#### **b) 2017/18 Financial Report to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

The report was noted.

### **3589 – FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

#### **a) Small Claim**

**RESOLVED** – that the claim be reviewed on the first anniversary of the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 Town Council Meeting.

#### **b) Budget, 2018/19**

**RESOLVED** – that a sum of £700 be added to the Council Offices budget for office cleaning, the same amount to be added to the Precept figure.

### **3590 – FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018**

#### **a) Budget and Precept, 2018/19**

**RESOLVED** – that the Contingency budget be increased to £7,400, HR Support increased to £2,600, Landscape Maintenance reduced to £5,000 and Reserves Released – Contingency inserted at £5,000.

**b) Health and Safety**

**RESOLVED** – that Council accept a quotation for a three-year Health & Safety fixed fee service of £1,100.

**c) Centenary Fields – New Ground**

**RESOLVED** – that Council support the Fields in Trust Initiative and write to the Borough welcoming an indication to transfer the property.

**d) VAT Invoices and Internet Purchases**

i) Cllr. Nowak proposed an amendment and it was **RESOLVED** – that the sum in the motion be altered to £20. **RESOLVED** – that Council only pursue VAT for invoices over £20, if not supplied immediately.

ii) **RESOLVED** – that the Clerk be provided with a pre-paid card for goods purchased on the internet with a limit of £500.

**e) Cleaning Contract**

**RESOLVED** – that the Council invite quotations for cleaning services on an initial one-year contract.

**f) Window Wanderland**

Cllr. West proposed an amendment and it was **RESOLVED** – that the sum in the motion be altered to £50. **RESOLVED** – that Council donate £50 to their project.

**3591 – FORMER BRACKENBURY INFANTS SCHOOL**

The Chairman accepted a modified motion from Cllr. Grieve, as follows:-

“that the Council proceed towards submitting a bid to Dorset County Council for the acquisition of the Brackenbury Infant School with a view to converting it into a community hub, which will provide a range of services to the community as well as becoming the permanent base for Portland Town Council with offices, storage, use of car park and hall provided that a viable and sustainable case be presented and subject to a satisfactory outcome of the arranged site visit with a final decision on whether to submit the bid being taken at the next full council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and also that a working party, made up of the following councillors ... meet as soon as often as necessary to prepare the business case, submit a strong bid to Dorset County Council by early March 2018 and pursue grant funding.”

**RESOLVED** – that the Council proceed towards submitting a bid to Dorset County Council for the acquisition of the new Brackenbury Infant School site with a view to converting it into a community hub, which will provide a range of services to the community as well as becoming the permanent base for Portland Town Council with offices, storage, use of car park and hall provided that a viable and sustainable business case be presented and subject to a satisfactory outcome of the arranged site with a final decision on whether to submit the bid being taken at the next full council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and also that a working party meet as soon and as often as necessary to prepare the business case, submit a strong bid to Dorset County Council by early March 2018 and pursue grant funding.

It was further **RESOLVED** – that the working party consist of members of the Finance Committee, Cllrs. Grieve and Lees. Its meetings would be held in public, but parts might be conducted in privacy, depending on the confidentiality of the documents being discussed.

**3592 – CRIME AND DISORDER**

The report was noted.

**3593 – BUDGET & PRECEPT, 2018/19**

There were no further amendments to the budget and precept figures.

**3594 – CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR FOR UNDERHILL WARD**

The candidate was not present. The agenda item was therefore postponed to the next meeting.

**3595 – LEGAL ASSISTANCE REGARDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Clerk’s report was noted.

**3596 – WEST WEARES**

Cllr. Wild announced that a further working party event would take place on 28<sup>th</sup> January.

**3597 – ATLANTIC ACADEMY CONSULTATION**

Cllr. Grieve reported on the meeting with representatives of the Academy that had been held recently. They had given a commitment that places would be provided for all children on the Island who applied.

**3598 – SAN MAURO**

Cllr. Flack will raise the San Mauro proposal for letter-writing between schoolchildren with the Atlantic Academy and St. George’s.

**3599 – TRANSPORT REPRESENTATIVE**

**RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Draper be appointed as the Council’s transport representative.

**3600 – GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION**

It was agreed to pass the item to the Finance Committee.

**3601 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS**

The report on the SLCC meeting was noted.

**3602 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting will take place on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018, at Peter Trim Hall, St. George’s Centre, Reforne starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.

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