

**PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017**  
**IN THE PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. David Farmer (Mayor's Chaplain), Cllr. Katharine Garcia (Dorset County Council), Andy Matthews (Neighbourhood Plan Working Group), PC Steve Morris (Dorset Police) and five members of the public.

**3446 – CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

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

**3447 – PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

**3448 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Kate Wheller (Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council.)

**3449 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**3450 – OPEN FORUM**

**a) Police Question Time**

PC Morris referred members to the Police website for the latest crime statistics. He said the main problem on the Island at present was a spate of thefts of motorbikes and mopeds, and vehicle break-ins. He also answered questions about parking in Wakeham and Fortuneswell, and the possibility of speed signs to slow traffic down from New Road to the corner of Fortuneswell by the Royal British Legion.

**b) Public Half-Hour**

June Morley asked whether the Search and Rescue event was Lottery-funded. Cllr. Nowak explained that the Council's original bid to the Lottery was only an outline indication of what was intended. He had kept their people up to date as firmer details emerged and will be providing an interim report on the Council's spending.

Rob Hughes commented on the outstanding VAT claim, what he thought was an underestimate of the value of the civic regalia and the report on parking and visitor facilities in Chiswell.

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

Cllr. Garcia reported that she had been speaking to County officers on highway matters. As a result bollards had been installed on Greenways and potholes were being filled in. Overgrown vegetation will be dealt with in early July. She had also raised with the Cabinet to need to improve access to and from the Island.

### **3451 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

#### **a) Annual Town Council Meeting, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

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

#### **b) Adjourned Town Council Meeting, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

Cllr. West was added to the list of apologies for absence. With this amendment the minutes were formally approved and signed as a correct record.

### **3452 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – that the update report be accepted.

### **3453 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN**

There were none.

### **3454 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr. Thurston detailed some of the arrangements for the Search and Rescue Ceremony on the following Saturday and requested members' help.

### **3455 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

**RESOLVED** – that the schedule of invoices (including cheque refs. 300128 - 300130) in the sum of £9,101.38 including VAT be authorised for payment.

#### **b) 2017/18 Financial Report to 31st May 2017**

**RESOLVED** – that the report be accepted.

#### **c) Internal Audit, 2016/17**

**RESOLVED** – that the final report be received.

#### **d) Annual Return, 2016/17**

**RESOLVED** – that the Council answer “yes” to Items 1 – 8 of the annual governance statement and approve statement, accounting statements and supporting statement for signature.

### **3456 – COMMUNITY BUS**

Cllr. Cocking verbally reported on developments.

### **3457 – EVENTS & TOURISM WORKING GROUP**

Cllr. Reynolds' name was added to the list of those present at the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

Cllr. Nowak reported verbally on the two meetings of the Group held since then, primarily to discuss the Lottery event associated with the Search and Rescue Ceremony.

**RESOLVED** – that Cllrs. West and Wild become members of the Events Working Group.

### **3458 – NATIONWIDE BUILDING SOCIETY ACCOUNT AND 900 YEARS TAPESTRIES**

Cllr. Nowak declared a non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of St. George's. The tapestries are now on display in Girt Hall following a Council grant last year for them

and wi-fi equipment. Two tapestries had never been framed and the Trust had requested from a health and safety aspect that those framed with glass have Perspex fitted instead. It was agreed the Finance Committee should look at additional funding for this work.

Cllr. Nowak also explained the link between the tapestries and the Nationwide (900 Years) account.

#### **3459 – PARKING AND VISITOR FACILITIES**

Cllr. Grieve gave a visual presentation of the various issues involved in addition to her written report.

**RESOLVED** – that a Working Group consider the options, the members to consist of Cllrs. Gover, Grieve, West and Wild.

#### **3460 – BOROUGH COUNCIL DISPOSAL OF PORTLAND SITES**

Cllr. Nowak provided a verbal report on some of the individual plots that the Borough intends to sell. The Borough may well write to the Town Council shortly offering some of the plots.

#### **3461 – GRASS-CUTTING CONTRACTS**

This item was deferred for consideration after the exclusion of press and public.

#### **3462 – CLOSURE OF LLOYDS BANK**

Cllr. Nowak reported that he and Cllr. Wheller had met with the manager of the Bank. There was no prospect of Lloyds changing their minds. Apparently the number of accounts open was a key factor and Lloyds conceded they could have given the public more warning of this prior to their announcement.

Two organisations have indicated a willingness to restore banking facilities to the Island.

#### **3463 – DAPTC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2017**

Cllr. Nowak requested motions be submitted at the next meeting. One concerning Japanese knotweed was mooted.

#### **3464 – REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS**

There were none.

#### **3465 – STAFF PENSION**

This item was also deferred to later in the meeting.

#### **3466 – 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 Items 16 – Grass-Cutting Contracts and 20 – Staff Pension by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

#### **3467 – GRASS-CUTTING CONTRACTS**

The Clerk gave a verbal report on the current situation. He recommended that two areas for cutting be added to the West Weares specification and plan, namely a salient of shrubbery on the land sculpture and the edge of the tarmac path adjoining

the sculpture. It was left to the Clerk and Cllr. Grieve to come up with the best solution and report back to Council.

**3468 – STAFF PENSION**

**RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Draper submit a copy of the advice received from SLCC to NALC for comment.

**3469 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting will take place on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017, at the Peter Trim Hall, St. George’s Centre, Reforne starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm.

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