

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27th JUNE 2018 AT THE PETER TRIM HALL, ST GEORGE'S CENTRE

PRESENT: Councillors Ray Nowak (Chairman), Jo Atwell, Sue Cocking, Jim Draper, Charlie Flack, Sandra Reynolds, Chris Gover, Sandra West and Rod Wild

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Katherine Garcia (WPBC and DCC), Paul Kimber (WPBC), Andy Matthews (Neighbourhood Plan Working Group) and nine members of the public.

3701. Chairman's Welcome

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

3702. Prayers

The Mayor's Chaplain was not present.

3703. Apologies for Absence

Cllr's Grieve, Lee and Baker (WPBC) sent apologies.

3704. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cocking declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 14.

3705. Open Forum

A member of the public expressed her disappointment at the perceived lack of Town Councillors at the recent D Day ceremony. She also thanked the Mayor for taking the service beautifully.

Cllr Wild commented that he was there, other Councillors expressed that they had other engagements, had sent apologies or were working.

It was requested that the Mayor, supported by the Town Council, spearhead a campaign to save the beds at Portland Community Hospital.

Cllr Gover spoke at length the bigger picture within the NHS and Dorset and the CCG consultation. He stated that representation on this matter was poor.

Cllr Nowak confirmed that the Portland Town Council had completed the consultation and were at present awaiting the judicial review.

Questions were asked if the purchase of Brackenbury school had been completed and when and whether a public meeting on the project was going to happen.

Although this was to be discussed later in the meeting, Cllr Cocking confirmed that the school had been brought for £100,000 on 14th June 2018.

Cllr Nowak apologised that a public meeting had not been set but this would happen in August at the site.

The final question was to receive clarity on the boundary with regards the new council ward boundaries for Dorset.

Cllr Nowak confirmed the boundary will remain where it is.

3706. Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr Kimber spoke on the scrutiny committee's decision to approve the development at Southwell school. It was mentioned that some outdoor space was requested to be saved. He continued by saying that an individual was dissecting every word of the CCG review. He concluded by stating that he felt the Local Plan lacked ambition and the infrastructure was crumbling. More houses but no employment.

Cllr West mentioned that a village hall or community hall should be considered for Southwell school. She also talked on the port health committee and what would become of this in April 2019.

Cllr Nowak then requested that in future all DCC and WPBC send in a report to the Town Council which in turn would be disseminated to all Town Councillors in advance of the meeting. He concluded by saying that the Local Plan was a planning plan and he thinks it was a good plan.

3707. To Approve the Minutes of the Adjourned Meeting Held on 16th May 2018

These were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

3708. Minute Update and Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3709. Written Questions for the Chairman

There were no questions for the Chairman.

3710. Town Mayor's Announcements

Cllr Flack updated the Council on the Mayor's activities during the past month. A full list can be found at Annex A.

3711. Financial Matters

The Clerk produced a schedule of invoices for authorisation.

These were approved. The schedule can be found at Annex B.

The Clerk updated the Council on the current budget situation for FY 18/19

These were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Declaration of 2017/18 accounts subject to internal and external audit

The Clerk declared that the accounts balanced with a small income over expenditure for the FY 17/18. The Internal audit had been completed with 9 minor actions to be reviewed. Transparencies had been forwarded to finance committee for approval.

The Town Council approved these accounts subject to completion of internal audit points and external audit.

3712. BEACH

Cllr Cocking updated the Council on the current position.

She confirmed that the public works loan had been approved and been paid.

She confirmed that the old infant school at Brackenbury had been brought and paid for. All legal matters were completed on 14th June 2018.

She stated that the LEADER grant missed the original panel date and was now going to be heard on 26 July 2018.

She confirmed that the play equipment could be donated to Islanders but at their own risk, the change of use had been approved by planning at WPBC and some minor house keeping was being undertaken. Many expressions of interest had been received for use of the facility.

Cllr Novak thanked Cllr's Cocking and Grieve for all their hard work thus far. He concluded by confirming a public meeting would be held on site once the small H&S issues were completed.

3713. To discuss the LGR asset transfer proposal

Cllr Nowak updated the Town Council on the asset distribution from DCC and WPBC.

It was agreed by all that a public meeting must be held to inform the public of the options available to Town Council, the predicted costs and potential consequences if the Town Council did not take this on.

A date in August was agreed.

3714. To nominate the preferred contractors for the BEACH project

All Councillors had been provided with 3 quotes from contractors for all areas of works on the BEACH.

It was unanimously agreed to take the lowest quote in all areas subject to approval of LEADER grant, contractor availability and confirmed price.

3715. To confirm the contract of the Interim Town Clerk as recommended by the Staffing Committee

It was agreed by all to extend the Interim Town Clerk's role by 3 months.

3716. To confirm the hours of the Assistant Town Clerk as recommended by the Staffing Committee

It was agreed to increase the Assistant Town Clerk's hours by 5 hours.

3717. To confirm new roles for office staff on the move to BEACH as recommended by the Staffing Committee

The Council were happy to receive the report, but Cllr Novak did not approve it.

3718. Staff payroll payment dates as recommended by the Finance Committee

It was agreed to move staff payroll payment date to the 30th of each month subject to that day not being a weekend or public holiday.

3719. Approval for payment of invoices out of Full Council as recommended by the Finance Committee

It was agreed that the Finance Committee had full authority to approve and authorise any payment of £500 or under.

3720. Closure of Nationwide account update and recommendation from Finance Committee

It was agreed by all to close the current account and start again.

3721. Litter picking coordinator for Portland Town Council

Giovanni Lewis had written to the Town Council offering her services as a litter picking coordinator for the Island.

This was unanimously approved.

3722. Exclusion of Press & Public (discretionary)

There were no matters.

3723. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 25th July 2018 at the Peter Trim Hall, St. George's Centre, Reforne, Easton at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended 20.42 hours.

Signed Dated.....
(Chairman)