

## PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

### MARINE, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD AT PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE, REFORNE WEDNESDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2016

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ms S. Lees (Chairman), Ms J. Atwell, Mrs S. Cocking, C. Flack, R. Nowak, D. Symes, D. Thurston and R. Wild, together with Philip George and Jane White (Crown Estate), Leo Henley Lock (Dorset Wildlife Trust), Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership), Hannah Sofaer (Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust) and Mike Deadman (Weymouth & Portland Tourist Board)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Douglas Pigg (Dorset & East Devon National Park Team), Richard Hyams (Astudio Architects), Angela Williams (IPACA) and four members of the public.

#### **1144 – CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

Cllr. Lees welcomed all to the Partnership meeting and gave fire safety directions.

#### **1145 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. J. Draper and Mrs S. West, and Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institution).

#### **1146 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Lees declared a pecuniary interest in the Chesil Equestrian Centre and Mr Matthews non-pecuniary interests in Weymouth College and the MEMO project.

#### **1147 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016**

##### **a) Minute 1134 – Declarations of Interest**

Mr Matthews requested that “and the MEMO project” be added to his declaration.

##### **b) Minute 1136(a) – Dorset Local Access Forum**

Mr Matthews asked that “The County” be substituted by “The Economic Vision Board” and “at that time” entered after “bid.”

With these amendments the minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

#### **1148 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING**

##### **a) Minute 1136(c) – Lighthouse Anniversary**

The Clerk said there had been no reply from Trinity House to the Council's letter.

##### **b) Minute 1141 – Broadband Speed on the Island**

Mr Matthews commented that the County was carrying out a general review of broadband provision.

#### **1149 – DORSET AND EAST DEVON NATIONAL PARK**

Douglas Pigg gave a presentation on the proposed new National Park. He said the idea had first been mooted in 1945. It was revived in 2013 when a bid to create the Park was lodged with Natural England.

Speaking of the challenges, he dwelt first on the environmental aspects, saying that such a Park would help address the decline in the local landscape and environment, and so benefit tourism in the area.

Moving more specifically to tourism, Mr Pigg said that the number of visitors to Dorset was falling in comparison with the national average. Increasing tourism would provide a stimulus for local economic growth.

He was seeking the support of local authorities to the proposal to create a National Park and it was agreed to bring the matter to the next meeting of the Town Council.

#### **1150 – OPEN AIR AMPHITHEATRE AND MEMORY STONE PROJECT**

This topic was also the subject of a presentation by Richard Hyams, architect for the amphitheatre, Hannah Sofaer of the Quarry Trust and Angela Williams from IPACA. With the aid of illustrations Mr Hyams particularly explained how the amphitheatre had been designed to blend in with the landscape.

#### **1151 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Mr Matthews referred members to the Plan Management Committee meeting the following week and the agenda that had been circulated.

#### **1152 – JAPANESE KNOTWEED**

Cllr. Nowak reported that he had been monitoring sites with knotweed on the Island, now at least eleven, and taken it up with officers at the County and Borough, though with little success. He felt either that the relevant legislation was insufficiently strong or was largely being ignored. It was agreed to write to Richard Drax MP to urge that more strenuous action be taken to prevent the spread of knotweed.

#### **1153 – OVERGROWN PAVEMENTS ETC. ON THE ISLAND**

Mr Thorner, who had raised the issue, was present and expanded on what he had said in his e-mail.

Members commented on the difficulty of dealing with the problem when much of the responsibility lay with others. The Clerk was asked to check what correspondence on the subject had been sent to the landowners concerned.

#### **1154 – PEBBLES SIGNAGE**

Members identified the existence of several signs warning against the removal of stones from Island beaches. It was felt nevertheless that there was a need for more. Mr Matthews thought some of the money available to the Community Partnership after the last serious storm on the Island could be used to raise awareness of flooding and coastal erosion, particularly among local young people. He offered to mention this at the Partnership's forthcoming AGM.

#### **1155 – COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATION**

Members concluded that there was a need to identify the location of all defibrillators on the Island and increase the availability of knowledge of how they should be used. It was suggested someone give a talk to the Council on the subject.

#### **1156 – CUT TOURISM VAT CAMPAIGN**

**RESOLVED** – that the Council support NALC’s campaign on tourism VAT and inform them to that effect.

**1157 – STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS** (by exception)

**b) Litter and Fly-Tipped Material**

Cllr. Flack advised that the local recycling centre was about to introduce charges for some categories of waste brought. Cllr. Nowak said the Borough Council intended to carry out a delayed review of refuse bin provision throughout the Borough.

**d) Open Spaces, Hedgerows, Footpaths and Dry-Stone Walls**

Philip George understood that the Crown Estate had registered land in the vicinity of the Bill, which might ultimately lead to dry-stone walls there being repaired.

**1158 – REPORT ON VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE**

Mr Deadman reported that Portland maps continued to be very popular. A leaflet had been produced recently on the variety of Island wildlife. Meanwhile the Portland Passport continued to be popular among visitors.

**1159 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place at Easton Methodist Church Hall, Easton on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.

Signed ..... (Chair) Date .....