

## PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

### MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2014

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs S. Bradley, Ms S. Lees, A. Matthews, (also as Chairman of Portland Community Partnership Board), and R. Wild, together with Philip George (Crown Estate), Hannah Sofaer, Charles Frampton and Paul Crabtree (Portland Stone Quarry Trust).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Pam Hamblin (Assistant Town Clerk)

#### **1024 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr. John Thorner, Geoff Peters, Sandie Wilson and Peter Allam.

#### **1025 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Lees declared that she has a non-pecuniary interest in the footpaths on the Island in relation to her Chesil Equestrian Centre interests. Cllr Matthews declared his interest in the Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **1026 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

These were agreed and signed as a true record, proposed by Cllr. Wild and seconded by Cllr. Matthews.

#### **1027 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING.**

There were no updates to discuss.

#### **1028 – WEST WEARES**

Cllr. Wild reported that the grass cutting had been carried out by 'Gary' at the request of the Hut Owners Association who in turn invoiced this Council. He is to be paid £200 if he will collect a cheque in person from the office.

#### **1029 – REVIEW OF SAFETY BARRIERS ON THE ESPLANADE**

The Assistant Clerk reported that she awaited a reply from WPBC with regard to ownership. Cllr. Matthews said that previous risk assessments for events held there had been carried out with WPBC.

#### **1030 – ROAD SURFACE ON THE ESPLANADE**

Repairs will be carried out in the New Year, weather permitting.

#### **1031 – COMMUNITY SANDBAG SCHEME**

After discussion, it was **RECOMMENDED** that the Assistant Clerk is to contact DCC with regard to ascertaining the number of properties at risk and the number of bags needed and then George Crook and Sons be contacted with regard to setting up a storage area for the Underhill area. The meeting expressed the wish that if there is agreement from George Crook, that the scheme be progressed.

### **1032 – “DESTINATION PORTLAND”**

Cllr. Matthews briefly updated the meeting and said the local Enterprise Partnership has a strategic projects list and “Destination Portland” is a concept high on their agenda. Tourism potential is a method which can be used to attract industry and that the Island needs to build up its tourism potential. “Destination Portland” is an umbrella for other projects – MEMO, Jurassica, the cruise ships at Portland Port, the quarry Nature Park and Portland Museum. He highlighted Dover District Council which has used a heritage strategy to rework their tourism service. Cllr. Matthews further said that consultation is being carried out with regard to tourism under the auspices of the Neighbourhood Plan.

### **1033 – JURASSICA**

Cllr. Matthews said that this falls within the umbrella of “Destination Portland”. The “due diligence” test has to be passed before money can be released and there is to be a traffic review and impact assessment, especially in respect of the Fortuneswell area. Cllr. Lees asked if land had been purchased. Cllr. Matthews said that it had not been purchased and that planning permission can be sought before that is done. If planning permission is granted for a change of use and the project does not proceed it becomes a brownfield site. Hannah Sofaer said that the Wildlife Trust has an interest in some of this land. Cllr. Matthews reminded members that all of this comes under the Neighbourhood Plan and the public can comment at any time.

### **1034 – INDEPENDENT SOLAR FARM**

Hannah Sofaer said that the Government is no longer funding large farms. Cllr. Wild reported that at a recent public meeting at the Heights Hotel, the public seemed to be generally in favour.

### **1035 – EAST WEARES**

Cllr. Wild reported that Lyn Cooch is still negotiating with Portland Port.

### **1036 – VICTORIA GARDENS GATES**

Philip George reported that there had been problems with the cable and power supply and the Court Leet had agreed to cover the cost of £7,500 to enable the project to continue. In fact, it is not likely to cost as much as this.

### **1037 – WEYMOUTH CIVIC SOCIETY AWARDS**

Cllr. Wild reported that he, Hannah Sofaer and Lyn Cooch had attended and that nearly all had been awarded to Portland – the Legacy Trail, The Fakery at Fortuneswell, the new building on the Easton Motors site and Portland Joinery. He added that they are actually Weymouth and Portland Civic Society Awards but that the name goes back to the pre-1974 boundary changes.

### **1038 – STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)**

#### **(a) Disused Quarries**

Cllrs, Chadwick and Bradley had attended an open meeting. Hannah Sofaer said that the Quarry Trust had been asked to contribute in terms of education to the Jurassica project and the Trust is seeking an Arts Council Exception Award and will ask the Council for assistance by writing a letter on its behalf. She will contact the Council with further details. Cllr. Wild said that this could tie in with a grant application to the Council. Hannah Sofaer mentioned that there is no indication at the Heights roundabout as to how to find Tout Quarry and she hoped that some

feature could be placed there. She added that the Trust had moved the all-terrain wheelchairs from the Heights Hotel to the Drill Hall premises.

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

Cllr. Wild asked that the members contribute to the ongoing survey on Household Waste Sites on the dorsetforyou website. Cllr. Matthews said that the aim will be to eventually charge householders for disposal. He asked how much of the cost of maintaining the sites is a management cost and that there highlighted that there is no option within the survey to deal with waste disposal on a more local basis. Paul Crabtree said that the proposals are environmentally unsustainable and it will lead to fly-tipping.

**(c) Run-Down Areas**

There no issues to discuss

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

After discussion, Hannah Sofaer and Cllr. Lees offered to ascertain if they could form a group of volunteers and set up a working dry-stone wall group. The Assistant Clerk was asked to inform Geoff Smith of this and he would be kept informed of progress.

**1039 – ISSUES RAISED BY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS**

Philip George asked if the Council had received a letter from WPBC with regard to Easton and Victoria Gardens and how they can be funded in the future. The Assistant Clerk was asked to find the correspondence and send a holding letter in that the full Council will consider this issue.

The report relating to the Verne LNR and the Coastal Path from Ruth Carpenter (attached, received too late to send with the agenda for the meeting) was read by the members.

The Chairman mentioned the illness of the Town Clerk and the meeting passed on their good wishes to him for his recovery.

**1040 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman advised members that the next meeting of the Partnership would take place on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7pm, at the Drill Hall, Easton Lane, DT5 1BW.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

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