

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MARINE, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD AT PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE, REFORNE WEDNESDAY, 6TH JULY 2016

PRESENT: Councillors Ms S. Lees (Chairman), Ms J. Atwell (from 7.30), J. Draper, C. Flack, R. Nowak and R. Wild, together with Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership), Hannah Sofaer (Portland Sculpture Quarry Trust) (from 7.15) and Peter Allam (Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk)

1132 – CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – that Cllr. Lees be appointed Chairman of the Partnership for 2016/17.

RESOLVED – that Cllr. West be appointed Deputy Chairman for 2016/17.

1133 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. D. Symes and D. Thurston, together with Leo Henley-Lock (Dorset Wildlife Trust and Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institution).

1134 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

1135 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2ND MARCH 2016

Jane White should have been recorded as representing the Court Leet.

Cllr. Lees pointed out that her apologies had not been minuted.

Mr Matthews asked that an explanatory note be added to Minute 1118, "Her intention in coming to the meeting was to seek the Partnership's views regarding footpaths, cyclepaths etc."

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

1136 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

a) Minute 1118 – Dorset Local Access Forum

Mr Matthews reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group had reviewed the issue raised by Miss Hansford and had sent her some proposals regarding the accessibility of footpaths etc. The County had considered making a bid for a Coastal Communities Forum grant, but had concluded there was not enough substance for a bid. Mr Matthews undertook to circulate a copy of the paper sent to Miss Hansford.

The Working Group will look again at the issues in time for the next funding round. The hope is to create new footpaths and cyclepaths.

b) Minute 1123 – Refuse Bins

Cllr. Nowak said the Borough was “dragging its feet” over introducing new bins on the Island, but hoped the proposals could be implemented next spring.

c) Minute 1128 – Lighthouse Anniversary

There were no further developments. The Clerk was asked to write to Trinity House asking if they wanted the Town Council to be involved. He was also asked to approach the National Coastwatch Institution about the event.

d) Minute 1129(b) – Litter and Fly-Tipped Material

Cllr. Wild confirmed that a barrier had been restored to the top of Incline Road, the stones had previously been removed to allow disabled access, but the intention was to restrict use by motorcyclists.

e) Minute 1129(c) – Run-Down Areas

Cllr. Draper enquired if there had been any progress with 11 High Street, Fortuneswell. Cllr. Nowak said it seemed the Borough was finally making a start.

1137 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Mr Matthews said lead Councillors had now been appointed for the study groups. Aecom was now carrying out technical consultancy work for the Plan through grant funding.

Miss Sofaer asked about the inclusion of the quarry nature parks in the Plan and was advised to speak to the Tourism theme leader.

There followed a discussion about reconciling marine-based activities with tourism aspirations.

1138 – JAPANESE KNOTWEED

From the chair Cllr. Lees said she had spoken to environmental health, who had advised that unless it was found to be encroaching on someone else’s property no action could be taken against the owner of a site where knotweed was growing.

Cllr. Nowak said he was now aware of at least seven places where knotweed was present on the Island. The Borough appeared to be showing some interest in limiting its spread. Asked whether knotweed could be spread through being eaten by horses Cllr. Nowak said it could if seeds were being digested. He would contact DEFRA about the issue. Cllr. Flack observed that this could also apply to birds.

Cllr. Nowak agreed to pass on details of his investigations via the Clerk.

1139 – BRIDLEWAY BETWEEN WESTON STREET AND PARK ROAD

Cllr. Atwell and Lees had met David Ackerley of the County to discuss the bridleway. The intention was to resurface it, although Cllr. Draper thought that drainage work was necessary first.

1140 – BUS SERVICES ON THE ISLAND

Members discussed the low usage of the new service, noting its current low frequency. Cllr. Wild commented that the IPACA travel plan had not been announced, while Mr Matthews drew attention to opportunities for a service based on

workers going to the Port and Granby Industrial Estate. Unfortunately the bus company wanted finance for new services before launching them.

1141 – BROADBAND SPEEDS ON THE ISLAND

There was comment on the poor speeds available at the Port and Osprey Quay. Mr Allam said there was insufficient demand, it being necessary to have one hundred subscribers to effect any improvements. Sunseekers had made their own arrangements. Meanwhile the Sailing Academy was considering a microwave solution.

The Clerk was asked to write to the County about the poor provision and Cllr. Wild agreed to raise it at a DAPTC meeting.

1142 – STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)

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

Cllr. Wild reported a continuing problem with the concrete capping to the walls on the approach to the Bill still lying on the pavement. Cllrs. Lees and Flack also noted encroachment by Cheyne Weares and along New Road.

Cllr. Lees reported no further meetings regarding dry-stone walls. Mr Matthews said Kingston Maurward was working more closely with Weymouth College in a review of local education courses on offer.

1143 – CONTENT AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold two presentations at the next meeting, one on the Quarry Trust’s amphitheatre project, the other on the Dorset and East Devon National Park. It will take place at the Peter Trim Hall, St. George’s Centre, Reforne on Wednesday, 31st August 2016, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

Signed (Chair) Date