

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH JUNE 2013

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs S. Bradley (Chair), R. Hughes and R. Wild, together with Philip George (Crown Estate), Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership) and Hannah Sofaer (Portland Stone Quarry Trust) (from 7.15pm)

IN ATTENDANCE: Pam Hamblin (Assistant Town Clerk).

938 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors L. Ames and R. Denton-White, together with Charles Frampton (Portland Stone Quarry Trust) and Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institute). The meeting was technically inquorate, but in view of the numbers present it seemed expedient to proceed.

939 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

940 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD APRIL 2013

It was agreed that the minutes be amended as follows: to add the apologies of Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institute) and that the final paragraph of Minute 931-Portland Bill Visitor Centre be amended to read "... direct involvement from the co-opted members present other than the existing interest expressed by the Portland Community Partnership." With these amendments the minutes were formally agreed and signed as a true record.

Cllr Hughes asked whether two employees are necessary for the new post of lengthsman and raised general employment issues associated with it.

941 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

a) Minute 928(a) – Olympic Legacy

John Tweed explained that a bid had been submitted and was supported by the Partnership.

b) Minute 928(b) – Parish Lengthsman

Cllr Hughes asked whether two employees were necessary for the new post of lengthsman and raised general employment issues associated with it.

c) Minute 928 (c) – Proposed Stopping Up of Footpath 34 at Perryfield Quarry

The Council had objected to stopping up the footpath and a meeting is to be held on 6th June 2013 at County Hall to discuss this.

d) Minute 931 – Portland Bill Visitor Centre

After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk be asked to give a brief update for the next meeting as to the progress of the handover of the Visitor Centre with information from Trinity House and the Crown Estate. Mr George mentioned that he had heard

the Mayor of Weymouth & Portland say that the Visitor Centre would not close and it was agreed that the Clerk clarify this with Weymouth and Portland Borough Council.

(e) Minute 934 – Fuel Production Plant at Portland Port

The application had come before the Weymouth and Portland Borough Council Planning Committee and the majority of members were in favour of temporary permission being granted for the melting of tyres until palm oil becomes more viable.

942 – COASTGUARD AND HELICOPTER SERVICE CLOSURES

The Chair reported that she and Cllr Ames had met with Richard Drax on 23rd May. This matter was discussed and Mr Drax had said that he was keen to assist in any way he could to retain the facility.

Mr Matthews informed the meeting that the police are looking to rationalise their helicopter services which would result in one helicopter in the East and one in the West of the region. Mr Matthews wondered if they could use the Portland base. The helicopters could still “hot” refuel here if they travelled from Gosport.

943 – OLYMPIC LEGACY

Mr Matthews informed the meeting that there was currently a bid by Dorset County Council to fund a continuation of the Active Sports Programme, which was held on Weymouth Beach in 2012. Portland clubs were not given the opportunity to be included. There will be activities on the Island but they will be based around the Sailing Academy and will not directly involve other sports clubs on the Island. The Portland Community Partnership is looking to see if there are ways by which a sporting future can be stimulated.

944 – JOINT MINERALS LOCAL PLAN CORE STRATEGY

Cllr Wild reported that the Council’s amendments to the Strategy regarding the Portland Neighbourhood Plan, quarrying and education were put before the Examination in Public held on 15th May 2013 by the Clerk, who attended in person. The Partnership agreed that he should be thanked for his work with regard to this.

945 – PARKING ON GRASS VERGES

Members expressed concern that there appeared to be a lack of legislation to enforce inconsiderate parking. Mr George reported that he was aware of incidents when the Borough parking wardens had issued tickets to owners of vehicles parked on other grassed areas. Cllr Hughes undertook to make enquiries of a local parking warden to ascertain the situation.

946 – VILLAGE GREENS

The request for funding from the Open Spaces Society was discussed. Cllr Hughes asked how the Society was funded and why additional funding was needed. Mr George explained that the Court Leet subscribes £100 pa for the Open Spaces magazine which discusses issues surrounding the rights of communities with regard to open spaces and village greens. The Court Leet also gives a donation to the Society. Ms Sofaer also endorsed its work. It was **RECOMMENDED** - that the Town Council consider a donation with the benefit of further information before it as to the work the Society carries out.

947 – AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)

c) Run-Down Areas

Incidences of graffiti were identified at High Angle Battery, New Street, Reforne, the Southern Electricity sub-station and St George’s Road. The meeting requested that the Clerk write to Weymouth and Portland Borough Council to ask if their lengthsman could remove these. Mr George asked whether Southern Electricity should be contacted to remove the graffiti from their property. Mr Matthews informed the meeting that Community Payback had previously been involved in graffiti removal and that the Aster Housing Association (formerly Synergy) could be contacted to deal with the occurrences on their property. The meeting asked that the Clerk write to Aster with regard to the lack of maintenance of the grassed areas at Pound Piece and the recreation area at the upper end of Verne Common at the junction with Ventnor Road.

Cllr Hughes asked if the football pitch close to the new Osprey Quay school is to be returned to the community since it had been taken over by the Olympic Organising Committee. The meeting asked that the Clerk write to the Weymouth and Portland Borough Council with regard to this.

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

Cllr Wild commented that no bee orchids had been seen this year and that some of the dry-stone walls have been repaired.

948 – ISSUES RAISED BY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

With regard to raising the profile of Portland harbour and the Island in general, Cllr Wild reported on behalf of the Portland Seafarers Support that cruise ships tend to receive a send-off rather than on arrival and that the Britannia Centre is in a rundown state.

Ms Sofaer mentioned that students from Brighton University are currently staying at the Breakwater Hotel and Cllr Hughes said that Aqua give a discount for divers.

Cllr Wild reported that a charity day will take place at the Portland Lighthouse in July or August.

Mr Matthews reported that a number of groups are now taking care of the blue planters around the Island. The ones which are now on display will be maintained this summer. Cllr Bradley suggested that plants might be obtained from Weymouth and Portland Borough Council.

949 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised members that the next meeting of the Partnership would take place at the Council Offices on 4th September 2013, starting at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm.

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