

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MARINE, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD AT EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL, EASTON ON WEDNESDAY, 2ND MARCH 2016

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs S. West (Chairman), Ms J. Atwell, Mrs S. Cocking, J. Draper, R. Nowak (from 7.15pm), Mrs S. Reynolds, D. Thurston and R. Wild, together with Mike Deadman (Heights Hotel & Portland Visitor Information), Philip George (Crown Estate), Tara Hansford (Dorset Open Access Forum), Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership), Hannah Sofaer and Charles Frampton (both Portland Sculpture Quarry Trust), Paul Glover (History Society), Peter Allam (Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy) and Jane White (?)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk)

1114 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. C. Flack, Ms S. Lees, Kate Wheller (Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council) and Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institute)

1115 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

1116 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2ND DECEMBER 2015

The minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

1117 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

a) Minute 1097 – Chiswell: Flood Limitation

Mr Matthews said he was still trying to progress the provision of a sandbag store.

b) Minute 1105 – Portland Maps

Cllr. Cocking affirmed that the Town Council had approved funding for the maps.

1118 – DORSET LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Miss Hansford introduced herself as the County's Countryside Project Development Officer. She outlined her work, one part of which was to improve the rights of way network. Her intention in coming to the meeting was to seek the Partnership's views regarding footpaths, cyclepaths etc.

Cllr. Cocking drew attention to the prevalence of potholes along the Island footpaths. Miss Hansford said the surface is maintained by the County, but in some cases it is the responsibility of the landowners.

Cllr. West asked how problems with footpaths were notified. Miss Hansford said some are reported by their rangers, others from messages on the Dorset for You website. This can take a while to resolve.

Cllr. West also raised the condition of the lower half of Merchant's Incline, which she said was in a dreadful condition.

1119 – DRY-STONE WALLS

Mr George said the Crown Estate intended setting up a training scheme for the repair of dry-stone walls, with the Court Leet giving £350 to set it running. Mr Matthews said he had raised the subject with Weymouth College and Kingston Maurward.

1120 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Mr Matthews reported that the Economic Vision had been completed, demonstrating the Island's potential as part of the Western Growth Corridor. Among its intentions were the aims to raise our tourist profile and provide more employment on the Island, which would enable more residents to work closer to home.

1121 – WEST WEARES CLEAN UP

Cllr. West gave notice of clean-ups on 9th, 10th and 12th March.

There was a short discussion about refuse collection on the Island and the effect of uncollected rubbish.

1122 – QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

Cllr. Wild made some suggestions for celebrations of the birthday, with the constraint that there was little or no money left in the year's Civic Expenditure budget to provide support.

1123 – REFUSE BINS

Cllr. Nowak reported that he was organising additional locations for waste bins and welcomed ideas. Bins were to be supplied for the Bill and New Ground.

Cllr. Wild was aware of three trial bins, but also that they were not being emptied. Two at West Weares were overflowing.

1124 – WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND TOURISM BOARD

Mr Deadman gave a report, starting with a mention for a conference that was being held shortly at Weymouth Bay Holiday Park to showcase the efforts that were being made to boost tourism in the area.

A flier had been produced listing mainly sporting activities occurring locally and 20,000 tourist maps had also been put into circulation.

The Portland Passport scheme was to be launched at Easter, allowing visits to up to nine attractions in a year. Thirty-eight businesses had supported the venture.

A new leaflet had been produced about wildlife on the Island to promote its unique flora and fauna. Lastly Mr Deadman said he understood that it was still the intention to go ahead with the Jurassica project.

1125 – PARKING ON THE ISLAND

Cllr. Thurston spoke on behalf of Cllrs. Flack and Gover, who were both absent. There was a problem with vehicles parking on grass verges, made worse by the fact that some were commercial ones. Both the Police and Dorset Highways had denied responsibility.

It was queried whether there might be a case for instituting a bye-law. Cllr. Nowak thought the situation needed policing, but there lay a resource problem. Mr Gover advised that a PCSO had taken some action in the past.

1126 – VARIOUS HIGHWAYS ISSUES

The report of the former Assistant Clerk was noted.

1127 – UPDATE FROM PQST

Hannah Sofaer reported a successful project bid in respect of Memory Stones. An outline drawing for an amphitheatre had been drawn up in conjunction with IPACA.

1128 – LIGHTHOUSE ANNIVERSARY

Cllr. Wild advised members of an event to celebrate the building of the Island’s first lighthouse. The suggested date was 25th September.

1129 – STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)

b) Litter and Fly-Tipped Material

Cllr. Wild reported that blocks had been removed from the top of Incline Road, apparently without any response from the Port. As a result fly-tipping seemed to have increased in the area. The Clerk was asked to write to the Port on the subject.

c) Run-Down Areas

Cllr. Nowak said that the Borough had set aside £250,000 for a community project. The aim was to restore 11 High Street, Fortuneswell and its surrounds, with work due to start later in the year.

1130 – UNSCHEDULED ITEM

Mr Allam reported briefly on the Sailing Academy. It would shortly be hosting some 505 Championships, a derivation of the Sail for Gold events. He also spoke of the Academy’s wish to engage with both local mariners and the community in order that sailing life-skills be passed on to younger generations. The intention was that it might become a curriculum activity.

1131 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman advised members that the next meeting of the Partnership was schedule to take place on Wednesday, 1st June 2016, subsequently altered to 6th July 2016.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.

Signed (Chair) Date