

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MARINE, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD AT EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL, EASTON WEDNESDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER 2016

PRESENT: Councillors Ms S. Lees (Chairman), Mrs S. Cocking, R. Nowak, Mrs S. Reynolds, D. Thurston and R. Wild, together with Philip George (Crown Estate), Jane White (Court Leet), Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institution), Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership), Hannah Sofaer (Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust), Paul Glover (History Society), Peter Allam (Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy), Mike Deadman (Weymouth & Portland Tourist Board) and Geoff Proctor (Portland Museum)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk)

1160 – CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME

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

1161 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Ms J. Atwell, J. Draper, C. Flack, C. Gover, D. Symes and Mrs S. West, together with Leo Henley Lock (Dorset Wildlife Trust) and Rowena Riley (Churches Conservation Trust).

1162 – 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.

1163 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31ST AUGUST 2016

Minute 1154 – Pebbles Signage

Mr Matthews asked that the minute take account also of issues concerning flooding and coastal erosion. With this amendment the minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

1164 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

No issues were raised.

1165 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Mr Matthews brought members up to date. They were still waiting for consultants to start the Government-funded technical study. Copies of the economic development summary were issued at the meeting. The Community Partnership had put in a bid for £500,000 of Coastal Communities funding to support the private tourism initiative at Castletown. Mr Matthews also quoted a Royal Society of Arts survey, which placed Weymouth & Portland in the top ten nationally in terms of heritage assets, but much lower for explaining that heritage.

1166 – JAPANESE KNOTWEED

There was no further discussion.

1167 – OVERGROWN PAVEMENTS ETC ON THE ISLAND

Cllr. Cocking had some addresses of landowners with encroaching hedges for the Clerk to write to. Hannah Sofaer will provide more.

Cllr. Lees reported that Stone Firms were responding on their property to an enforcement notice issued by the County.

1168 – PEBBLES SIGNAGE

Mr Matthews explained the background of £5,000 grant money held by the Community Partnership as a result of the storms in 2014. The stipulations were that it had to be spent on flooding measures and encourage entrepreneurship among young people. The sandbag store envisaged had proved to be too expensive to achieve.

From discussion it was agreed to seek further advice from the Environment Agency, contact IPACA to seek its involvement and bring the issue to Town Council.

1169 – BROADBAND PROVISION

Mr Allam thought the letter received from the County was misleading over statements concerning Osprey Quay. Some of the businesses there had found their own solutions. He would report back after a meeting of Osprey Quay tenants the following week. Mr Peters said the impression had been given that broadband on the Island would be an Olympic legacy, but reception at the Bill remained very poor.

1170 – PALM TREES

The Clerk was asked to write to the person concerned who made the offer expressing the Council's thanks and that it would investigate further, also asking what variety of palm trees they would be.

1171 – FINGERPOSTS

Mr George said the Court Leet was working towards replacing the one on Weston Street. The fingerpost by Easton Gardens was removed some years ago and he was also aware of one that had been at the junction of Southwell and Portland Bill Roads. Cllr. Wild mentioned another on what he called the "German Road", a footpath from Wide Street to Bowers Quarry, which had rotted through.

1172 – DOG WASTE BAGS

Cllr. Lees indicated her intention to bring a motion for the Council to finance the availability of these waste bags on the Island. The merits and demerits of the subject were discussed and Cllr. Lees undertook to reconsider her proposed motion.

1173 – PORTLAND MAPS

Mr Deadman reported on recent tourism matters and requested Council sponsorship of £1,000 for a new reprint of the maps. It was **RECOMMENDED** – that the request be taken to full Council.

1174 – STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)

a) Disused Quarries

Cllr. Wild pointed out the use of Tout Quarry as a backdrop to two recent television programmes without acknowledgement.

b) Litter and Fly-Tipped Material

Mr Glover reported fly-tipping on the allotments behind the Clifton Hotel.

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

Mr George said the dry-stone walls along Portland Bill Road had in fact been registered by the Crown Estate. Damage to them was currently being assessed, since some is criminal. The expense of repairing these sections would be considerable.

1175 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at Peter Trim Hall, St. George’s Centre, Reforme on Wednesday, 1st March 2017, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.

Signed (Chair) Date