

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD IN THE OSPREY LEISURE CENTRE, CASTLETOWN, PORTLAND ON WEDNESDAY, 2ND SEPTEMBER 2015

PRESENT: Councillors Ms S. Lees (Chair), Ms J. Atwell, G. Chadwick, Mrs S. Cocking, C. Flack, D. Symes, D. Thurston, Mrs S. West and R. Wild, Jen Reeves (Agincare, CRAB), Philip George (Crown Estate), Mike Deadman (Heights Hotel Tourist Advice Centre) and Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk) and one member of the public.

1080 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. J. Draper, C. Gover and Jason Webb (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), Derek Luckhurst (Agincare), Rowena Riley (Churches Conservation Trust), Natural England, Peter Allam (Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy) and Peter Staddon (Working for a Better Portland).

1081 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

1082 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD JUNE 2015

The minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record. (For: 12 votes, Against: 0 votes, Abstentions: 1 vote).

1083 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

a) Minute 1067 – Dry-Stone Walls

Mr George said the Court Leet was willing to provide funds for training in dry-stone wall construction.

b) Minutes 1069 – Castletown Development

Ms Reeves reported that planning permission had been granted for the local shop to become a convenience store and for a heritage centre to be created in the naval bakehouse, with another pending for the public conveniences.

c) Minute 1074 – Cheyne Weares

Further to the Minute Update the Clerk said he now had documentation for small works contracts and quotations.

1084 – CHISWELL / FLOOD LIMITATION

Mr Matthews said the Community Partnership was holding some money made available by the Storm Wallace initiative, pending the receipt of suitable advice. Nick Reed of the Environment Agency was due to recommend a storage facility for sand-bags, though this might cost several thousand pounds. A motor cycle store was an alternative at about £1,300, which could be secured and transported with a truck.

Cllr. West was concerned that some people had been left out from a public meeting and the Borough seemed to be making all the decisions.

Cllr. Thurston advised that the Sea Cadets had been offered the use of a 40' container, but Cllr. Wild thought that one 10' in length was preferable.

Cllr. Chadwick suggested Agincare might provide a site for the sand-bag store and Ms Reeves agreed to check. Mr Matthews offered to ask IPACA the same question.

Cllr. Wild said flood procedures were among a number of updates to the Emergency Plan, which were with the Clerk for typing.

Lastly Mr Matthews announced that Nick Reed would be speaking at the AGM of the Community Partnership on flood issues. The Environment Agency was wanting to recruit more people to be flood wardens.

1085 – DRY-STONE WALLS

The discussion covered a number of issues. Two speakers highlighted the need for wall repairs along the road to the Bill, Cllr. Lees pointed out that previous work had been concentrated on walls with high visibility. Toilet facilities were not available for the volunteers more often than not. She also would write again to seek more financial support for training with the longer term hope of setting up a Portland examination centre for dry-stone wall skills.

1086 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Mr Matthews spoke to his written report. Asked about further public consultations, he said the Working Group was concentrating on the economic part of the Plan at present and looking for proactive support in this from the Borough.

Cllr. Chadwick was worried that the Plan appeared not to be progressing as fast as it should. Mr Matthews thought that with the current emphasis more influence could be placed on development at Osprey Quay.

Cllr. Wild remained concerned that recommendations for the conservation area review continued to be ignored.

1087 – BROADBAND ON THE ISLAND

Mr Matthews stated that the County was trying to improve the provision for industrial areas through leisure and tourism grant funding. Internet access at Osprey Quay was still weak.

1088 – PUBLICATION OF COASTAL ACCESS REPORT: LYME REGIS TO RUFUS CASTLE AND CONSULTATION (ends 2nd September 2015)

Cllr. Lees said she had had a large personal involvement in the Rufus Castle to Lulworth study, but had heard nothing about it since.

Mr Matthews said the Community Partnership had responded to the consultation.

Cllr. Lees also wondered whether landowners would allow the coastal footpath to be set back from the current track. Mr George said he had been assured that landowners would be consulted.

1089 – PORTLAND'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

Mr Matthews explained that the local business board had drafted a vision document and were organising two workshops to publicise and review it. Reference was also made to the sizeable Coastal Communities Fund the government was making available.

1090 – STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)

a) Disused Quarries

Cllr. Flack informed members that plans for a solar park at Independent Quarry had been approved. Cllr. Cocking advised that she had circulated literature among Council members about the proposed development at Coombefield Quarry.

b) Litter and Fly-Tipped Material

Members compared notes on areas cleared of rubbish and problems still occurring. The Clerk was asked to write to the Waste Partnership regarding refuse left lying around after weekly bin collections.

c) Run-Down Areas

Cllr. West commented that the newly-installed plants along Ventnor Road had improved the look of the street.

Cllr. Chadwick said all the new bollards had now been erected in Fortuneswell. This had some effect on drivers crossing from Spring Gardens into Ventnor Road, but not all.

There was general approval for the appearance of Easton and Victoria Gardens. Cllr. Wild wondered whether the Court Leet might be willing to fund wheelchair access to Victoria Gardens and Mr George agreed to ask.

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

Cllr. Cocking commented on the vegetation growing over the pavement along Southwell Road. The Clerk undertook to pursue the issue.

Cllr. Lees referred to a complaint she had received about tractor marks along footpath no. 6 by Westcliff. She was informed that this needs to be reported to the County's footpaths officer. Mr George also noted it.

Cllr. Flack drew attention to mossy pavements along Mallams and King Street. He will notify the Borough of this.

1091 – ISSUES RAISED BY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

It was proposed by Cllr. Thurston and **RESOLVED** – that three specific contractors be asked to provide quotations for the remedial work at Cheyne Weares.

(For: 13 votes, Against: 0 votes, Abstentions: 0 votes)

Mr Deadman said he had been informed by the County that work was due to start at New Ground and wondered why approval had been given.

Cllr. Wild said there had been concerns expressed recently about traffic problems in Avalanche Road, which had simply enhanced his previous reservations about the IPACA project.

Cllr. Flack reported a recent serious rockfall along West Weares.

The Clerk was asked to obtain litter-pickers from the Borough for a forthcoming clean-up.

1092 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman advised members that the next meeting of the Partnership was schedule to take place on Wednesday, 2nd December 2015, but said there was the possibility of an earlier meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.

Signed (Chair) Date