

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MARINE, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD AT EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL, EASTON ON WEDNESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESENT: Councillors Sue Lees (Chairman), Jo Atwell, Jim Draper, Charlie Flack, Lucy Grieve and Rod Wild, together with Jane White (Court Leet and Crown Estate), Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership), Hannah Sofaer (Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust) (from 7.10 pm), Peter Allam (Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy) and Mike Deadman (Weymouth & Portland Tourist Board)

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

1194 – CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME

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

1195 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Susan Cocking, Chris Gover, Ray Nowak, Sandra Reynolds, David Thurston and Sandy West together with Cllrs. Katharine Garcia (Dorset County Council) and Penny McCartney (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), Derek Luckhurst (Agincare), Tara Hansford (Dorset Local Access Forum), Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institution) and Ruth Carpenter (Natural England)

1196 – 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.

1197 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH JUNE 2017

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

1198 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

a) Minute 1189 – Japanese Knotweed

The Clerk reported that the Council had set up a working group to advise on further action. It comprises Cllrs. Atwell, Flack and Nowak.

b) Minute 1191(c) – Run Down Areas

The Clerk will pursue his enquiries about 11 High Street.

1199 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no comments or questions.

1200 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Mr Matthews reported that the responses to the consultation on the Heritage and Character Study had been posted on the Plan website along with the comments of the Planning Officer. The intention was to incorporate those details in the Plan at the next Planning Committee meeting.

The green space review was being carried out at the moment as part of both the Neighbourhood and Local Plans.

Members discussed the recently-formed Portland Land Trust. Mr Matthews explained how the Trust is intended to operate. For example a land trust could build housing on a site, where a developer may consider it insufficiently profitable to proceed.

Returning to the subject of the Neighbourhood Plan Mr Matthews thought it could well be completed by December, when it would then be subject to statutory review by the Borough Council. May 2018 remained a possibility for the referendum date.

1201 – WESTERN DORSET GROWTH CORRIDOR

Mr Matthews said officer support was being provided for Dorchester and Weymouth in pursuance of the project, but Portland was rather being left to fend for itself. Discussion centred on the tourist implications for the Island. Mr Matthews referred members to the action plan within the Neighbourhood Plan's economic review.

1202 – PUBLIC FOOTPATHS

The Clerk spoke on behalf of Cllr. Garcia, who was unable to attend the meeting. She had spoken to the rights of way officer about the two footpaths of immediate concern. Footpath 35 in the Weston Street is officially closed, but there is a way through close by. The other footpath by Blacknor Fort had received criticism for being too narrow to negotiate. The rights of way officer had undertaken to clear the encroaching vegetation in the near future.

1203 – PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

The County officer's report was presented. The suitability of the Incline for both bicyclists and other users was discussed.

The County map of the Island paths needed to be drawn up a second time. It was agreed that Cllr. Lees should arrange a meeting with her to consider a path in the vicinity of the Port.

1204 – MARINE DREDGING POLICY

Cllr. Wild reported that he had received a complaint that some illegal dredging might have been carried out. Permission for dredging needed to be obtained from the environmental authorities, but it seemed in this case permission had been granted.

1205 – TOURIST MAPS

Mike Deadman reported on the wider issues of local tourism, which included the opening of the Memory Stones and Crabbers Wharf. Advertising on local buses had been increased, drawing attention to various Island attractions.

RECOMMENDED – that the Council provide a grant of £1,000 for the purchase of 20,000 more tourist maps.

1206 – BROWN-TAILED TUSSOCK MOTHS

Cllr. Wild commented on the proliferation of these moths on the beach road and other locations throughout the Island. November would be the best time to deal with their

nests, so he was advocating an article in the Free Portland News with advice on how people could deal with them.

Mention was made that the County might regard the moths as a protected species, which Cllr. Flack would check.

1207 – MEMO PROJECT

Mr Matthews advised of recent developments.

1208 – STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)

a) Disused Quarries

Hannah Sofaer reported the projected amphitheatre was going to planning application.

b) Litter and Fly-Tipped Material

Cllr. Lees ventured the thought that this had reduced recently. Cllr. Flack commented that the main problem seemed to occur around Bank Holidays when the Waste Partnership were apparently not emptying the litter bins. The Clerk was asked to write to them.

Cllr. Wild reported that thirty bags of rubbish had been removed from the St. Peter’s Church site. Comment was made on the unwillingness of the Borough to take action there and in similar instances.

d) Open Spaces

It was reported that Stone Firms had cut the hedges on the western side of Easton Lane, the Borough similarly on the eastern side for Dorset Waste Partnership. Favourable comments were made about other hedged areas on the Island.

Cllr. Lees noted a stone wall had been flattened on Weston Street by workmen and there were safety issues involving work to water pipes in Watery Lane.

1209 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at Peter Trim Hall, St. George’s Centre, Reforne on Wednesday, 6th December 2017, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

Signed (Chair) Date