

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8TH JULY 2015 AT 7.00 PM IN THE PETER TRIM HALL, ST.GEORGE'S CENTRE, REFORNE

PRESENT: Councillors J. Draper (Chairman) Ms J. Atwell, G. Chadwick, Mrs S. Cocking, C. Flack, C. Gover, R. Hughes, Ms S. Lees, Mrs S. Reynolds and Rod Wild, together with Andy Matthews (Working Group) and Sandie Wilson (Portland Port)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Councillor P. Kimber (Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), William Buchan (Working Group) and eight members of the public

224 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. D. Symes and D. Thurston.

225 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Matthews declared an interest as Chairman of the Working Group and a trustee of the MEMO project.

226 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH JUNE 2015

Cllr. Flack drew attention to what he felt were discrepancies in the numbers of the recorded votes. The Clerk accepted this, but said these were what he had recorded at the time. [Clerk's note: Noting the exact numbers is not always easy because of the way in which votes are often conducted. Ultimately at all Council and Committee meetings it is the responsibility of whoever chairs the meeting for making clear what is the result of a particular vote.]

The minutes of the meeting were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.
(For: 7 votes, Against: 0 votes, Abstentions: 0 votes)

227 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

228 – OPEN FORUM

Paul Snow asked whether the Plan budget was neutral and whether implementation of the Plan would be inhibited or delayed by the Council not having the General Power of Competence. Mr Matthews replied that the Plan would largely be funded in the current year from Borough and Locality grants, depending on the technical issues. Possession of the General Power of Competence did not affect matters. The main difficulty for the Working Group was dealing with the workload with limited manpower resources.

Cllr. Kimber said the issue of the projected disposal of Underhill School had been brought to the attention of Dorset County's Cabinet. On the same subject Mr Matthews said a public consultation would be held on the following Tuesday.

229 – PLAN UPDATE

Mr Matthews advised that a full-scale development plan was required with a project management approach. Three sources were under consideration with regard to providing such a service. Consultant A’s offer would require twenty-seven days’ work, costing £12,000 to be funded from a Locality grant. Consultant B’s approach was different, being limited to specific development issues. The third source was the Borough itself, but it had not been approached as yet. Responding to a question from the chair, Mr Matthews assured members that the more expensive Consultant A would in effect be self-funding.

It was proposed by Cllr. Draper and **RECOMMENDED** – that the offer from Consultant A be accepted, subject to a satisfactory presentation by the people concerned. Mr Matthews was asked to arrange this meeting.

It was also agreed to request the Town Council to give the Management Group delegated power to make a final decision on the choice of consultant.

230 – BUDGET UPDATE

In speaking to his written budget report Mr Matthews explained that money received from Neighbourhood Plan grants must be spent within six months. He also informed members that the Borough would try to combine a referendum on the Plan with an election, so May 2017 was a likely date though May 2016 remained a possibility.

It was agreed to accept Mr Matthews’ report.

231 – ECONOMIC VISION

Mr Matthews highlighted the importance of Portland as part of the West Dorset “growth corridor.” However he emphasised that the main impetus for an overarching economic vision must come from local businesses. There would be two further consultations in September to progress the Plan, one among businesses, the other among the general public. Answering a question, Mr Matthews added that a principle aim was for the Island to become a sustainable community enabled by the introduction of new local industries.

232 – MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORKING GROUP

Asked concerning the current needs of the Group, Mr Matthews and Mr Buchan said certain core skills were still required, but also a general commitment to the Island.

233 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is likely to take place on Wednesday, 12th August 2015 starting at 7.00 pm, but this remains dependent on what needs to be arranged.

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm.

Signed: (Chair) Date: