

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10TH JUNE 2015 AT 7.00 PM IN THE PETER TRIM HALL, ST.GEORGE'S CENTRE, REFORNE

PRESENT: Councillors Ms J. Atwell, G. Chadwick, Mrs S. Cocking, J. Draper (from 7.20 pm), C. Flack, C. Gover, Ms S. Lees, Mrs S. Reynolds, D. Thurston, Mrs S. West and R. Wild, together with Andy Matthews (Working Group) and Sandie Wilson (Portland Port)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Jan Farnan (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council) and Paul Weston (consultant)

Cllr. Wild in the chair.

210 – ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – that Cllr. Wild be Chairman of the Management Group. (For: 9 votes, Against: 0 votes, Abstentions: 1 vote)

RESOLVED – that Cllr. Chadwick be appointed Deputy Chairman of the Group. (9-0-0)

211 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. R. Hughes.

212 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

213 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH MARCH 2015

The minutes of the meeting were formally agreed and signed as a correct record. (5-0-4)

214 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

215 – OPEN FORUM

There were no questions or comments raised.

216 – PROGRESSING A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Mr Weston noted that more than 1,200 councils were involved in producing neighbourhood plans and the stage had now been reached when some had been completed and approved by the residents.

He had helped the Working Group with producing its intelligence base, but the engagement with the community had not been as successful as hoped, perhaps because folk didn't often want to be pressurised to respond. Considering the

Island's special character it was important to produce a strategic policy plan for Portland alone. In spite of the setbacks to the Working Group Mr Weston still thought it was possible to produce a draft plan in nine months' time. New grant opportunities were available, close to being sufficient for what was needed.

Mr Matthews said more input was needed, in particular a business-led chairman for developing an economic vision. He agreed with Mr Weston that more professional assistance was needed.

217 – THE BOROUGH'S VIEW OF THE PLAN

Jan Farnan informed members on the progress of its own Local Plan. Public consultation had finished at the end of May and they were now waiting for the Inspector's report. A committee process would follow before the Local Plan could be finally adopted.

The Neighbourhood Plan will have the same legal status as the Local Plan. If the two policies conflict in a particular aspect this must be resolved in terms of the more recent plan and she gave examples.

Asked about the currency of the Island's Plan Mr Weston thought it might need to be reviewed in five years' time.

The discussion touched on heritage sites, preserving them and presenting them. Mr Weston advised members of the need for a sustainability appraisal plan and ensuring the policies accorded with the criteria. Technical grants could be sought from Locality. £8,000 might be available and could be claimed in instalments.

218 – PLAN UPDATE

Mr Matthews said the Working Group was focussing on producing an economic vision and there was also a need to update the Plan website. The Group was looking for support from the Town Council. The budget had been ratified and this had as yet made no allowance for additional grants.

A request by Mr Matthews was accepted by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Chadwick and **RECOMMENDED** – that the Council adopt a project management approach funded from current and future finance. (12-0-0)

219 – BUDGET UPDATE

220 – MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORKING GROUP

There was no discussion under either item.

221 – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

A letter had been received from a resident about a copse of trees and hedges on the Sweethill estate. She asked that it be preserved as it served as a natural habitat for migrating birds.

The Clerk was asked to pass copies of the letter to Mr Matthews of the Working Group and the County.

222 – CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE MANAGEMENT GROUP

With a particular intention in mind Cllr. Wild resigned as Chairman of the Group. It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Draper be appointed Chairman. (11-0-1)

223 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is provisionally scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 8th July 2015 starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.05 pm.

Signed: (Chair) Date: