

## **PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

### **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 AT EASTON METHODIST HALL, EASTON**

#### **PRESENT:**

Councillors:

Ray Nowak (Chairman), Jo Atwell, Sue Cocking, Dave Symes, Charlie Flack, Chris Gover, Jim Draper, David Thurston, Sandra West and Rod Wild

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors:

Garcia (DCC), Baker (WPBC), Kimber (WPBC), Leicester (WPBC)  
Andy Matthews (Neighbourhood Plan Working Group) and eight members of the public.

#### **3743. Chairman's Welcome**

Cllr. Nowak welcomed all to the meeting and advised of fire precautions at the hall.

#### **3744. Prayers**

Janet Guy Lay Preacher led the meeting in prayer.

#### **3745. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr. Reynolds sent apologies.

#### **3746. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were received.

#### **3747. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

These were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

#### **3748. Minute Update and Matters Arising**

Cllr. Flack mentioned the assistant clerk had rescinded her resignation and that the Summer Fete went well and brought in money which would be granted to local causes.

Cllr. West spoke briefly on the success of the suffragette and PRIDE events.

#### **3749. Co-option of a new Town Councillor**

Tim Gomm and Rob Hughes had both applied for the vacant position(s) in the Underhill Ward. They took questions from Councillors.

**Tim Gomm and Rob Hughes were both co-opted as Portland Town Council members for Underhill Ward.**

#### **3750. Democratic Public Half Hour Open Forum**

Cllr. Leicester raised concerns about the Town Council taking on the Portland Museum.

**The Chairman stated that discussions were being held on LGR and this was one of the subjects. Nothing has been agreed. However, the Museum Trust would continue with running and maintenance costs.**

Cllr. Garcia asked what plans and to what they are referring to regarding the motion that PTC formally request that Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee should therefore refer these plans to the Secretary of State for Independent Review.

**The Chairman stated this would be discussed later.**

Cllr. Garcia requested when recordings of the meeting would be made available on the website.

**The Chairman stated that when DCC and WPBC done so then PTC would consider it.**

It was asked by a member of the public why no declarations were made as to the agenda item regarding Councillor's Allowance.

**The Chairman answered that it was a discussion item and no formal resolution on amounts would be decided.**

Mr Vincent enquired as to why his letter to the Chairman had not been replied to.

**The Chairman apologised and stated he had not been into the offices recently and would collect the letter in due course.**

#### **3751. Written Questions for the Chairman**

There were no questions for the Chairman.

#### **3752. Town Mayor's Announcements**

Cllr. Flack updated the Council on the Mayor's activities during the past month. A full list can be found at Annex A.

A note of gratitude was given to Mayor and Councillors on an excellent Civic Day. All were a credit to Mayor and Portland.

#### **3753. Receive written reports from Borough and County Councillors**

There were no written reports received.

#### **3754. Financial Matters**

##### **a) Payments for Authorisation**

The Clerk presented payments for authorisation and approval.

**This was unanimously approved and can be found at Annex B**

##### **b) 2018/19 Financial Report to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

The Clerk confirmed, at this point, the budget was well within Precept.

**This was approved as a true and accurate statement of finances. These can be found at Annex C.**

Cllr. Gomm asked about the financing of the BEACH project.

**It was confirmed that funding had been received from Public Works Loan and LEADER grant and would in the future be self-financing.**

**3755. BEACH – to receive updates**

Cllr. Cocking confirmed all the details that had been published in the weekly updates. Most notable change was that of the newly appointed principle contractor. Work had started on all areas. Completion was expected by 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Of significant importance was that the asbestos report had found none in the building.

Cllr. Cocking proposed that a gas detection devise be installed at a cost of £959.07.  
**This was unanimously approved.**

Cllr. Cocking the proposed that the facility be named **Portland Community Venue**.  
**This was unanimously approved.**

**3756. To motion that PTC formally request that Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee should therefore refer these plans to the Secretary of State for Independent Review**

All Councillors had received a copy of the motion. Cllr. Nowak confirmed that the judicial review had failed and that other authorities in Dorset have already motioned similar requests.

Cllr. Gover stated that the STP was already beginning to lag with the merger of services between Poole and Bournemouth was unlikely to take place until 2020.  
**The motion was unanimously approved.**

**3757. Transfer of funds from reserve to the BEACH project**

Cllr. Cocking proposed that in accordance with the terms and conditions of the LEADER grant, that **£18K** be transferred from the general reserve to project.  
**This was unanimously approved.**

**3758. LEADER grant application**

Cllr. Cocking confirmed that the grant was approved on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and the contract signed on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018. All variations had been submitted to the LEADER team.

**3759. Appointment of New Town Clerk**

There had been a great response to the application. 5 applicants had been shortlisted who were to be interviewed by 3 Councillors on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

**3760. Request for the Christmas Lights to be extended from Easton Gardens to the end of the Straits**

Cllr. Atwell had received a letter from business owners on Straits requesting that the Christmas lighting be extended as they felt that potential customers would not come because of the dark streets.

**This was unanimously supported.**

**3761. Local Government Reorganisation update**

PTC had met on several occasions with Dorset Councils Partnership on the matter of transfer of assets and services. PTC would have to formally request these services which would then go to WPBC and onto the Shadow Authority for approval.

The Chairman would call a working group to further discuss this matter and put forward a proposal to Full Council.

A draft LGR had been set which was to be debated later.

Cllr. Flack confirmed that the new Unitary was looking to harmonise the Council tax in the financial year 2019/20. It was noted that over 200 jobs will go.

**3762. Town Councillors allowances**

A proposal was put forward regarding all Councillors receiving an allowance for time and effort on behalf of the PTC.

**It was the consensus that there was not a strong case for such an allowance. Travel and stationery were already built into the Precept. It was therefore agreed not to build Councillors allowance into the Precept for FY 19/20.**

**3763. Initial Precept update 2019 / 20 including Local Government Reorganisation budget**

All Councillors had received copies of the draft budget. The Clerk talked members through the changes which had been discussed at finance.

The following were recommended:

**An increase in the civic budget**

**An increase in the events budget**

**A deputy Mayor allowance**

**No Councillors allowance**

**Reduction in LGR costs for Portland Museum**

**3764. Exclusion of Press & Public (discretionary)**

There were no matters to discuss.

**3765. Date of Next Meeting**

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at the Easton Methodist Church Hall, Easton at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended 20.47 hours.

Signed ..... Dated.....  
(Chairman)