

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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18th July 2019

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** of **PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**, to be held in the **PORTLAND COMMUNITY VENUE** on **WEDNESDAY, 24th JULY 2019**, commencing at **7.00 pm** when the business set out below will be transacted.

Please inform the Clerk if you are unable to attend.

It should be noted that it is the Council's intention that all meetings of the Council and its Committees be recorded aurally.

Yours faithfully

Karon McFarlane
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Welcome
2. Prayers
3. Presentation by Rachelle Smith – secretary of the South West Dorset Multicultural Network.
4. Apologies for Absence
5. Declarations of Interest
6. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 26th June 2019
7. Minute Update and Matters Arising from the Minutes
8. Democratic Public Half Hour Open Forum
9. Chairman's Update
10. Town Mayor's Announcements
11. Receive written reports from Dorset Councillors
12. Financial Matters
13. Introduction of Paperless Committee Meetings
14. IT Budget Approval
15. Green Spaces – Move to Battery Operated Equipment
16. Councillor Vacancy
17. Appointment of a Management and Scrutiny Committee
18. St Peter's Church
19. Photographic ID for Councillors
20. Ratification of Financial Regulations
21. Report from the MET Partnership Meeting
22. Appointment of Community Safety Officer
23. Exclusion of Press & Public (discretionary)
“That pursuant to the provisions of Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for Agenda Item(s) *** by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.”
There is no exempt business for this meeting
24. Date of Next Meeting
The Committee's next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 18th September 2019, at Portland Community Venue, Three Yards Close, Portland at 7.00 pm.

1. Chairman's Welcome

2. Prayers

To be taken by the Mayor's Chaplain – Mrs Paula Brown

3. Presentation by Rachelle Smith secretary of the South West Dorset Multicultural Network.

Subsequent to Refugee Week Rachell Smith will deliver a presentation on the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme.

4. Apologies for Absence

To approve apologies of absence.

5. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations from Councillors or Officers of personal or prejudicial interests regarding matters to be considered at this meeting, together with a statement on the nature of those interests.

6. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 26th June 2019

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26th June as a true and accurate record of the meeting – Copy attached.

7. Minute Update and Matters Arising from the Minutes

To receive any updates or matters arising from the minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 26th June 2019.

8. Democratic Public Half Hour Open Forum

To receive questions from Members of the Public.

9. Chairman's Update

To receive updates from the Chairman.

10. Town Mayor's Announcements

To receive an update from the Mayor of events attended in July 2019.

11. Receive Written Reports from Dorset Councillors

For the Chairman to advise the Councillors of any written reports received from Dorset Councillors.

12. Financial Matters - See Annex A to this Agenda (to follow).

- a. To receive a request from the Responsible Finance Officer for the authorisation of payments.
- b. To provide a first quarter budget update.
- c. To seek approval of the internal audit 2018/19.
- d. To seek pre-approval to commit funds in excess of the current spend limit.

13. Introduction of Paperless Committee Meetings - See Annex B to this agenda

Cllr Roper will seek approval from the Council to stop (with immediate effect) the printing of minutes and associated papers.

14. IT Budget Approval – See Annex C to this agenda

Cllr Roper will seek approval to move a sum of money from the general reserves to support the design and delivery of a new website for Portland Town Council.

15. Green Spaces – Move to Battery Operated Equipment – See Annex D to this agenda

- a. Cllr Roper will seek support from the Council to implement a strategy of moving to Battery Operated Equipment for use by the Gardeners.
- b. Cllr Roper will present options to the Council for the purchase of Battery-Operated Equipment.

16. Councillor Vacancy

The Chairman will advice on the procedure (including dates) to be followed to appoint, by co-option, a Councillor to fill the current Council vacancy.

17. Formation of Management and Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman will seek approval to form and appoint to, a Management and Scrutiny Committee, to administer forward policy together with applications for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds.

18. St. Peter's Church – See Annex E to this agenda

Cllr Roper will present a report on the current state of St Peter's Church and will ask for support from the Council to support ongoing actions.

19. Photographic ID for Councillors

Cllr West will seek support, in principle, from the Council photographic ID for all Councillors.

20. Ratification of Financial Regulations

The Responsible Finance Officer will seek ratification of the revised Financial Regulations. These were endorsed as part of the Policy and Resource Meeting held in June 2019.

21. Report from the Marine, Environmental and Tourism (MET) Partnership

Cllr Draper will provide a report on the recent MET meeting held on 3rd July 2019.

22. Appointment of Community Safety Officer

To review nominations received and appoint a Community Safety Officer.

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 7PM ON WEDNESDAY 26th JUNE 2019
AT PORTLAND COMMUNITY VENUE

PRESENT:

Councillors: Charlie Flack (Chairman), Rob Hughes, Dave Thurston, Sue Cocking, Sandy West, Berny Parkes, Carralyn Parkes, Paul Kimber, Giovanna Lewis, Pete Roper, Sarah Harpley.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Andy Matthews (Neighbourhood Plan Working Group) and 8 members of the public.

3892. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and advised that there was no planned fire alarm testing and indicated to those present the various fire exits.

3893. Presentation by Helen Persey – Head of Integrated Community Services (West)
See Annex A to these minutes for this report.

3894. Prayers

The Mayor's Chaplain Mrs Paula Brown led the meeting in prayer.

3895. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Draper and Atkins.

3896. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

3897. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 15th May 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

3898. Minute Update and Matters Arising

- a. 3881a – Update on Allotments – The Chairman advised that a letter had gone to all allotment holders and that a response had been requested by 19th July 2019.
- b. 3881d – Attendance by the Police at Council Meetings – The Chairman stated that a letter had been written to the Chief of Police and a response received from Inspector Gosling agreeing to attend a Full Council Meeting and to provide a presentation.
- c. 3881e – A letter had been written to Atlantic Academy declaring the Council's support for the nursery to remain open but the Chairman had been advised that despite a lot of work by the staff to prove that the nursery was financially viable, regrettably it was to close on 24th July 2019.

Cllr Kimber proposed that a special item be added to the next Agenda so that the issue could be considered in more depth.

The Chairman commented that there was still an action required to write to the Academies Board of Directors and remind them that the Council had previously had a place on that Board and would welcome the invitation to do so again. He recognised that as the end of term was nearing then this action should be picked up again in September 2019.

Action on the Clerk to write to the Academies Board of Directors

- d. 3881h – Caterpillars – The Clerk confirmed that an email had been sent to Dorset Council, Mr Giles Nicholson and a copy was attached as an annex to the minutes.

- e. 3881j – Concerns Over the Rising Levels of Rape Seed – The Chairman informed the meeting that he had been advised that what had initially been thought to be rape seed was in fact black mustard seed.
- f. 3882d – Storage of Christmas Decorations – the Chairman advised that the Responsible Finance Officer intended to contact Turrells to understand whether they could potentially store them and to gain a quote for their erection and removal after Christmas.

3899 – To approve the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 4th April 2019

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 4th April 2019 were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

The Actions proposed as part of the Minutes were agreed as appropriate.

The Clerk is to write to Comer Homes inviting representation at a Full Council Meeting and requesting that they present their plans for the Hardy Block site.

The Clerk is to write to Comer Homes informing of the situation in relation to the unacceptable levels of caterpillars and request that action is taken to reduce the brambles on the site to alleviate the problem next year.

3900. Democratic Public Half Hour Open Forum

- a. Mr Tony Water wished to bring to the attention of the Council the issue of Climate Change. He advised that drastic action needed to be taken now to avoid the catastrophic consequences of global warming. He urged Portland Town Council (PTC) to consider the biodiversity implications in everything that they do, adding that we cannot afford to do nothing. He believed that the time was now right to be doing the right thing for Portland.
- b. Mr Vincent wished to know who had decided to spend £790 on cleaning the stonework in Easton Gardens and asked whether the money would not have been better spent on goal posts, as requested by Mr Darby? The Council responded that the decision was taken to give Easton gardens the best possible chance of gaining a green flag in the first year that it was under PTC management. In addition, the Council would continue to focus on understanding what should/could be done to make the most of Portland's assets for the residents of Portland; recognising that decisions made by the Council would not always accord with those of some of the residents of Portland.
- c. Mr Darby requested that the Council consider making the lettering on the Sidon memorial more prominent as it is now becoming difficult to read the inscription.
- d. Mr Darby advised the meeting that he had met with Cllr Roper to undertake a site visit of the Officer's Field and thanked him for his time.
- e. Mr Darby wished to make it known that he was unhappy with the state of the bowling green. However, as the bowling green was now being cut on the diagonal, he hoped things would improve.

3901. Chairman's Update

- a. The Chairman advised that following the passing of Cllr Ray Nowak a book of condolence was being held in the Council Offices and was open for anyone who wished to make an entry.
- b. He informed the meeting that interviews had been conducted for the post of Responsible Finance Officer and he was pleased to announce that Mr Wayne Lewin (the current RFO) was to be offered the post on a permanent basis.
- c. Following some negative feedback on the cutting regime of the verges on Portland; he wished to reiterate that the verge cutting was the remit of the Dorset Council and were not the responsibility of the PTC Gardeners. He read out a statement to support the new regime and this is held at **Annex B** to these minutes.

- d. The Chairman advised of a change to a meeting date. The Planning and Highways meeting which was to be held on Thursday 12th of December will now be held on Wednesday 11th December. The time and venue remain unchanged.
- e. A public meeting is to be held on Wednesday 7th August at the PCV at 7:00. The meeting will focus on the progress made since the transfer of services and assets from Weymouth Town Council on 1st April 2019, everybody is welcome.
- f. Following a meeting with Councillors and a member of the public today in relation to the MUGA in the Royal Manor Playing Field the decision has been taken on the grounds of health and safety to close it on a temporary basis until such time that critical repairs can be made.
- g. On the subject of asset transfer, there are still a small number of assets (pieces of land) that need to be viewed prior to taking the decision on whether or not they should transfer to PTC. To that end, the Chairman, Councillor Thurston and the Clerk will undertake an inspection of these pieces of land to aid that decision.
- h. The Chairman advised, that following an incident today in which an angry resident had kept the Assistant Town Clerk on the phone for over an hour; that in future any callers of this kind would be put in contact with the brief holder for the relevant area.
- i. Following an email from Dorset Council regarding electrical vehicle charging points a response was to be returned that suggested four car parks: Chesil Beach Car Park, the Masonic Car Park, Easton Car Park and the Car Park at Portland Bill. In addition to these it was requested that the Car Park at the Portland Community Venue be added to the list and that thought be given to including charging points for electric push bikes.
- j. The Chairman informed the meeting that he had met with the Court Leet to discuss the siting of a memorial to Jack Mantle and the Foylebank on the area now known as Beacon Hill. He advised that the Court Leet were trying to progress this quite quickly due to the age of the remaining relatives who would like to be able to see it. Advice on whether formal planning permission will be required is being sought.
- k. Cllr Thurston asked why all of the grass that was being cut from the verges and was being disposed of behind the wall of the Royal Manor Playing Field, and that there was concern that with the heat it would combust. Mr David Avery (Head Gardener) advised that there was no risk of fire and that the smoke/steam being seen was perfectly normal.

3902. Town Mayor's Announcements

- a. The Mayor advised of the meeting of the engagements that she had attended during June 2019 and for the record these are attached at **Annex C**.

3903. Receive written reports from and County Councillors

- a. Cllr Kimber advised that he had submitted a written report by email but regrettably this had not been received by the Clerk. For information this report is now held at **Annex D**.

3904. Financial Matters

- a. **Payments for Authorisation** – The Clerk presented payments for authorisation totalling £26,018.18, the list of payments is held at **Annex E**.

Authorisation of the payments was unanimously approved.

- b. The Clerk sought pre-approval (authority to commit funds) of £255.46 for the purchase of spring bedding plants from Weymouth Town Council. She explained that, in general, any spend which was greater than £150.00 needed to be pre-approved by either Full Council or the Resources and Policy Committee prior to any employee making a commitment of funds.

A vote was taken with the action being unanimously approved.

- c. The Clerk advised that spend to date equated to 21.31% of the years budget, whilst being 25% of the way through the year. This indicated that spend was on track.

3905. Climate Change/Extinction Rebellion

Cllr Lewis proposed (and was seconded by Cllr B Parkes) that Portland Town Council declare a) a climate emergency and b) immediately set up a working group of Councillors to explore, identify and take action to reduce Portland's impact on climate change and pollution; this proposal is held at **Annex F** to these minutes.

Cllr Kimber suggested that wording be added to the Portland Town Council logo to reflect their support for this cause.

A vote was taken on whether to accept both proposals, with a unanimous response being returned.

3906. Incomes, Poverty and Social Mobility in South Dorset

Cllr Kimber presented a report to the meeting (seconded by Cllr B Parkes) that illustrated the issues of low incomes, poverty and social mobility in Weymouth and Portland. He sought support from Portland Town Council in any future action and submission to Dorset Council. Cllr Cocking spoke passionately on the subject and the issues of deprivation on Portland, declaring that there is, indeed a deprivation emergency on Portland. The report is held at **Annex G** to these minutes.

A vote was taken with regard to supporting the report and the submission to Dorset Council, with a unanimous response being returned.

3907. School Holiday Lunch Club

Cllr Cocking presented to the meeting, a case for the support and running of a pilot for a summer holiday lunch club for children who might not otherwise receive a mid-day meal. Her vision was that there would be an allotment, with a green house where children would be able to see first-hand the entire process of food from ground to plate. The proposal is held at **Annex H** to these minutes.

A vote was taken to support the running of pilot summer holiday lunch club and a unanimous response was returned.

3908. Working Group Reports

The Chairman asked the meeting to consider whether reports from Working Groups were required and if so the frequency and delivery media of the reports. Following a discussion, it was agreed that written reports from each of the Working Groups would be required on a monthly basis and submitted to the Chairman in sufficient time for him to collate and submit to the Free Portland News.

3909. Appointment of Deputy Mayor

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had received two nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor; Cllr Flack and Cllr West. She asked whether there were any more nominations, but none were received. Each of the nominations were seconded and following declaration of the seconds a vote was held. Cllr Flack received 4 votes whilst Cllr West received 7.

Cllr West was duly appointed as Deputy Mayor she made the declaration and signed the declaration of acceptance.

3910. Appointment of Community Safety Officer

The Clerk advised that following the call for nominations none had been received for this post.

The Clerk was requested to re-issue the call for nominations, and to discuss further at the next meeting.

3911. Donation of a Display Case, and Contents from Portland Museum.

Cllr C Parkes advised that Portland Museum had made the generous offer to donate to the Portland Community Venue, a museum quality display case, complete with artefacts, representative of Portland's geology and history. The case is a metal table with a glass enclosure to protect the exhibits with an approximate size of 42inches by 28inches. Cllr Thurston also noted that there were several items, currently held within the storeroom, which as it appeared there was little opportunity for them to be displayed within the PCV, Portland Museum might wish to consider having.

A unanimous vote was returned in support of accepting the donation of the display case and contents.

3912. Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils

On behalf of Portland Town Council, Cllr Hughes had recently (4th June 2019) attended the Central Area Committee meeting and provided a report on that meeting. His report is held at **Annex I**.

3913. Dog Poop Project

The Clerk provided an update on the progression of the Dog Poop Project currently being undertaken by Mrs B Avery. In addition, she sought volunteers to be part of the judging panel for the Poster competition that was due to complete on 12th July 2019. Both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor kindly volunteered.

3914. Exclusion of Press & Public (discretionary)

There were no matters to discuss.

3915. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 24th July 2019 at the Portland Community Venue at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 21.15 hours.

Signed Dated.....
Chairman

I.T. Capital Budget – Transfer from Reserves

Portland Town Council New Website

At the last meeting of the I.T. and Communications working group, representatives of the Council's I.T. provider (SWIT) met with council members to discuss the requirements for the new website and the upgrade process from the old to new website.

The working group spelled out to SWIT the preferred 'look and feel', functionality and content. A discussion took place where SWIT proposed a number of options relating to the core build of the new website with the functionality available. SWIT also outlined how much control the council would have over the content of the website which would provide a degree of flexibility to updating and maintaining the website as well as cutting ongoing support costs.

Their thought about the budget available for this new website (£3,000) was a gross under estimate of the construction costs based on the council's requirements. A figure of between £10,000 and £15,000 was mentioned, but this would be reduced dependent on how much development, support and maintenance was carried out internally by the council.

Additional Email mailboxes

There is a requirement for 20 mailboxes so that each council member and officer will have their own individual email account. Backup, security and encryption systems will be built into this enhanced email system.

Other I.T. Equipment

The provision of Tablet PCs to council members was discussed should the Council pass a motion moving the present paper based system of disseminating Council papers to a digital process. If this motion was passed screens could be purchased to enable the public to view the documents being discussed at council meetings.

The acoustics of the Hall at the Portland Community venue are poor and a number of council members have mentioned difficulty in hearing individuals speak during meetings. Purchase of a sound system will be investigated by the I.T. and Comms working group.

The recommendation is that an additional £17,000 for the website and equipment mentioned above be requested from reserve funds. This would bring the total budget to £20,000 in addition to the £1,200 annual fee being paid for the current website.

Introduction of Paperless Committee Meetings

Introduction

At the last full council meeting on 26th June 2019 Portland Town Council passed a motion declaring a Climate Emergency and to explore ways to reduce the impact of Portland Town council on climate change and pollution. Removing the process of printing all council agendas, minutes and supporting papers has been identified as a means of reducing the carbon footprint of the council. The production of these papers is also seen as a costly, labour intensive process. Those agendas, minutes and supporting papers could and should only be produced in a digital version for distribution.

Increasing numbers of Councils have completed a transition to paperless meetings including a number of Dorset Councils led by environmental and cost saving considerations. It is expected that over the course of the next few years it will become standard practice at all levels of local government.

Environmental Benefits

The immediate impact of adopting this policy will be the reduction of the Council's carbon footprint as the amount of printer paper consumed by the council will be significantly reduced.

Printer toner ink uses fossil fuels. Most toner inks also contain chemicals and other substances that are harmful to our environment.

Cost Savings

Linked to the environmental benefits are associated cost savings. Using less printed paper saves on the purchase of printer paper and related items such as printer toner ink. The estimated cost of printing out a single sheet of paper by the Council can vary due to the amount of coverage on a printed page, but the combined consumption of paper, toner and printer drum should be taken into account.

Members can opt to receive all committee agendas, minute and supporting papers via a tablet PC (either personal or council provided) rather than receiving printed copies. If a Council Member prefers printed hard copy they would have to print the documents themselves.

There are two options for consideration:-

Option 1

Implement the transition to paperless meetings within the next two months.

Option 2

Opt for a pilot project on an appropriate committee. If this project is successful, then the paperless meetings implementation can be rolled out to all committees on a gradual basis – perhaps by the end of the current year or financial year (end March 2020)

St Peters Church Grove Portland
Saturday 29th June 2019

Firstly, I would like to thank, the community, at the Grove Portland, for inviting me to visit St Peters with Cllr Pete Roper.

Built between 1870-72 in the Romanesque style, St Peters church had close ties with the army garrison that was stationed at the Verne Citadel and the nearby prison – it was built using convict labour. There are several plaques and windows within the body of the church commemorating the close links with these institutions.

When it was built, the mosaic in the porch and sanctuary was laid by female prisoners. One famous prisoner was Constance Kent who was serving life imprisonment at Parkhurst Prison for child murder at the time.

Whilst we were in the church a number of people came in to look around simply because they noticed that the door was open. Most expressed their concern regarding the condition of the church. Also, some visitors gave helpful advice on the church that they had worked and attended. In particular is the condition of the West facing Wheel window which is missing a number of pieces of stained glass.

St Peters Church is a Grade II listed building and is similar to the prison chapel at Wormwood Scrubs prison in London – the only other example of this type.

The church has been in private ownership since 2004 with the current owner obtaining the church in 2014.

The church is on the English Heritage “Heritage at Risk” register. Historic England also surveyed the Church in 2015 and noted that West Dorset District Council was in discussion with the current owners regarding their concerns about the condition of the church.

Firstly, I want to thank Ms. Terry Shakespeare for highlighting the issues to us. As Terry said, “doing nothing is not an option we all love this church and we must do everything to stop further damage.”

- Our conclusion is swift action must be taken on St Peters Church to prevent any further deterioration to the church.
 - o Water is entering the main body of the church in several places probably as a result of missing roof tiles and stained glass.
 - o Roof tiles are breaking off the roof of the church and falling to the ground.
 - o The leaded Came framework which holds the stained-glass pieces together is deteriorating with small areas dropping to the floor of the church.
- The current owner must also be contacted to discuss the current issues around the St. Peters Church, Grove Portland.

Cllr Pete Roper & Cllr Paul Kimber

North facing roof tiles



Wheel Window Leaded Came structure is lifting.



Exterior view of Wheel window and erosion of stonework.



West facing erosion of stone columns.



Agenda Item 3 – Presentation by Helen Persey – Head of Integrated Community Services

Ms Persey introduced herself as Head of Community Services overseeing Weymouth and Portland together with other localities.

Ms Persey started by stating that she was not sure that healthcare on Portland was being provided as well as it should be; stating that somethings didn't quite work.

She reiterated that last year the beds had closed at Portland and as promised at the time there had been a number of meetings and in fact three general meetings had been held. She felt that there had been some frustration in not knowing whether the hospital was going to stay. In order to make health care on Portland work there had been a real need on her part to be able to develop on Portland the best way to provide health and social care and then to be able to replicate that model across other areas. She identified on Portland that there were many services that covered the same area and, in many cases, overlapped or worked concurrently which made it an ideal area to trial an alternative way to deliver clinical services. She confirmed that a clinical services review had stated that there would be a hospital on Portland, but she felt that she couldn't comment on whether the hospital would have overnight beds. She stated that she had asked the question of whether or not the hospital site would be the best place to site clinical services and had received a resounding 'Yes'. She added that there was now a Portland Hospital Development Group (PHDG), and confirmed that the hospital would stay and would not be sold; although she caveated that comment with the fact that whilst the decision still needed to be ratified by the Board, it was her understanding that it would be developed as per the requirements for Portland people. At the last PHDG the question was asked 'what services should be provided in a hospital'. To understand that the hospital had been opened up and groups/services that had not previously been sited there invited in. That wasn't she stated that Tricuro were delighted with the hospital as were the provider of services to the adolescent's mental health team CAMS. She was pleased to announce that it was the expectation that the minor injuries unit would be open across a seven-day span and added that the x ray department (a self-referral service) was doing well. A further variety of services such as REACH (a drug and alcohol dependency service) had expressed a desire to have a base on Portland and she also saw Portland hospital as providing a training facility with hot desking for administration and a room had been allocated for the Sexual Health services. Previously the focus had been on what services could be sited at Portland but had not looked at how those services could work together. She envisaged that under the new regime Portland Hospital would be a pathway to a variety of services i.e diet and nutrition and related to challenges that related to those specifically found on Portland. Having spoken to the Island Community Action it had been recognised that support was required for the frail and elderly and that it was the intention to map the services currently available and see how this could be improved, everything from befriending and social support to end of life care. She added that she felt that Portland had an exciting opportunity opening up and that she would be happy to take any suggestions on how the provision of health care on Portland could be delivered differently, but that the team needed help to design in the changes.

Cllr West suggested that regular updates on the PTC website and other social media sites would be of use, but that nothing beat getting out in public and providing reassurance to people.

Cllr C Parkes noted that having the minor injuries unit open until 10pm at night would be most welcome. She felt that the current opening times 9 – 5 Mon to Friday was serious impairment to people and needed to be extended. Ms Persey noted this and explained that it was the intention to with the general practice to see how that could be achieved.

Cllr Kimber felt that it was Important that news, both good and bad be fed through to the Islanders Ms Persey agreed and added that the push of the Islanders was key. With regard to the perceived lack of Doctors on the Island Ms Persey recognised that it was a difficult situation. She added that she believed that it was possible to design a health care model that supported the people of Portland and attracted new; a suggestion was made that the minor injuries service be extended to include Doctors.

Cllr B Parkes stated that he considered the health care model to be better than a hub and added that he felt social healthcare was a worry which had a tendency to become static. He felt that the best solution was to determine the direction of travel and to work together more (which did not necessarily mean being sited together). There was some worry that people might see the causeway to Portland as an invisible barrier, and that some staff based in Weymouth did not wish to be based on Portland.

Cllr West suggested an open day 'come and have a look at the facilities' event. But acknowledged that that might be better at a time when a number of services had moved in. Cllr Lewis offered to be the point of contact for the hospital, rather than to keep involving Helen.

Cllr Harpley asked about care for the elderly and palliative care, and whether there any chance of that service being provided on the island and suggested holding a meeting to have an island project specifically tailored to the care of the elderly. Ms Persey responded that it would be possible to start anywhere, but what was needed initially was a review and map of all care services required on the island, she added that understanding what was needed would ultimately drive the services.

The question was raised about the challenge of engaging with a whole variety of people who received varying services? Responses suggested that the Library would be a good place as there was a dementia group regularly held at the library. Cllr Cocking suggested a 'day of services at the PCV' and invited Ms Persey to have a stand.

Cllr Roper suggested that we the current success was due to the action of pressure groups. He stated that the CEO of the NHS had admitted that there was a lack of beds in the country and given that he wondered whether there would be a reversal of the strategy. Will there be a reversal of the strategy? Ms Perey responded acknowledging that the clinical services review suggested that the beds at (Westhaven and Portland) go and they be re-sited to the Weymouth Community Hospital. She acknowledged that Westhaven was still there, but that Portland hospital beds had gone as there were no staff for the wards. She added that who was to say that In a few years' time there might be more nurses, but she couldn't comment on whether the beds would come back. She cautioned that if the focus was only on beds then Portland may lose other services that could be offered. Re-iterating, she stated that she accepted that people want overnight beds in the hospital but in lieu of that there were other critical services being offered. Cllr Lewis acknowledged that the decision on beds was not within Ms Persey's remit but whilst there was evidence that Staff issues were not an issue on Portland felt that the fact had been engineered. Ms Persey responded that once it had become known that there was a problem with staffing at Portland and Westhaven then there had been a need to move staff.

In conclusion Ms Persey reiterated that it was her desire to understand what was missing in the health service offering and to try and fill the gap.

The Chairman thanked Ms Persey for coming to speak to the Council and asked if she would come back to the September meeting of this Council and provide an update.

The Town council gardeners have had quite a bit of negative feedback over the new cutting regime for the highway verges, they are NOT responsible for cutting these verges, the responsibility lies with Dorset Council

The verges on Portland are undergoing a transformation, the new cutting regime is now in place, with the aim of converting many of the roadside green spaces into havens for wildflowers and the increasing diversity of insects.

At first glance this process might appear to be a backward step, with the verges left longer than normal before they are cut, but it is precisely this delaying method, coupled with the collection of grass clippings once cut, denatures the soil, therefore lessening the swards vitality.

In turn this provides an opportunity for a large range of wild flower species to take hold, compete and eventually flourish. Nature and the environment are central to the council's green space thinking.

The wish is to enable an ever increasing ecosystem of plants and animals to find a home here on Portland.

Portland is not alone in managing their green spaces with this new regime it is already in place in other parts of the county.

Susan Cocking Mayoral and Dorset Councillor Update

I was delighted on 4th June to be invited by St John Ambulance at Easton Lane Portland ,to present special certificates to two cadets ,who whilst in a shop in Weymouth, went to the aid of a shop assistant ,who had an accident ,due to their quick thinking and training , had prevented a more serious injury to the person according to the paramedics who attended the scene.

We had a lovely sunny day , for our 75th Anniversary D-Day remembrance service on 6th June ,(If we can remember what one of those is ,with all this rain in June !) thank you for all those of you that attended ,and to Ben Cartwright for arranging the excellent standard bearers on the day ,and thank you to Dave Darby and the friends of Victoria Gardens for a great cup of tea and refreshments after wards .

Later the same day I presented certificates to the Head Girl and Boy, also to the student leadership teams ,for both primary and secondary at Atlantic Academy .

Portland Museum invited me to the opening of their new Marie Stopes exhibition on 13th June , and as a result of various funding streams they have been able to purchase new two new exhibits cabinets ,some more exhibition material which includes some of her books, and a Plague that will be put on the outside of the building .I would highly recommend a visit to the museum ,they have a wide variety of exhibits through the centuries relating to Portland.

14th June, Staff from Knight Frank Investments in London had rode and run to the Sailing Academy in aid of two charities Chesil Sailing Trust and Sense .Some of the staff had rode their bikes and run the whole distant from London and some had run from Durdle Door ,I welcomed them to Portland at the finishing line .I don't think they realise how hilly Dorset is ,but well worth it has they have raise over £20,000.

16th June was a remembrance service at the memorial stone ,near to the Olympic rings for HMS Sidon, which was a Royal Navy submarine ,on the 16th June 1955 it was moored in Portland harbour ,when a faulty torpedo caused an explosion and resulted in the loss of 13 lives.

23rd June I attended the Armed Services Day in Weymouth, it was very well attended by the public ,who lined the Esplanade and watched various marching bands ,veterans and Armed Forces and historic vehicles parade from

the Prince Regent Hotel to the Pavilion. Three times as a Mayor for Portland ,twice as a Weymouth and Portland Mayor and 35 years as Portland Town Councillor , Les Ames and his wife Jean attended the day ,Les will be 100 on the 25th August .That is a very impressive record ,he worked extremely hard for Portland .

I know there is a planning application which has generated a lot of interest and comments WP/19/00347/FUL Land North of 15-19 Cheyne Close, Southwell .This application is delegated to a planning officer ,As a Dorset Councillor I have requested that this application should go before the planning committee instead .As I am on that planning committee ,I can not make any comment about the application prior to a planning meeting .

If you need to contact me, you can at cllr.susan.cocking@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Mobile 07830971934

From Cllr P. Kimber

My first report to our Town Council and Free Portland News

Dear Portland Town Council & Free Portland News

Dear Friends

This is my first report about the first Dorset Council meeting. I'm pleased to report that I am now elected Leader of the Dorset Council Labour & Coop group, whilst we are the smallest group with Cllr Kate Wheller, the Dorset Council Labour & Coop Group we have a big heart and we will work for our communities in Portland and Wyke Regis.

At the first Full council It was proposed to suspend standing orders to allow group leaders to address the council on the issues on Climate Change. Upon being put to the vote the motion was **CARRIED**.

In respect of the questions relating to climate and environment emergency, the group leaders and councillors expressed concern that the council was not taking adequate action or considering declaring a climate emergency at the meeting.

After debating this motion, it was agreed.

Votes for 69, Against 2, Abstentions 6.

Clearly the work now begins on climate change in Dorset and Portland. We as Portland Town council and the community need to put this on our agenda for local debate by the Portland community.

I attended the meeting of the Friends of Portland Library which needs more support and help with fund raising. Please come and join us to help raise the profile of our local Library. Messages and complaints regarding Grass cutting. The grass will be cut on Portland as soon as possible. The council are trying to implement a new way of cutting the grass which will benefit all in the long run.

We are trying to get all Political Groups to work together to address the problems on the Social Mobility Commission report "State of the nation 2017" which placed Weymouth and Portland third from bottom out of England's 324 Local Authority Areas.

Since then we have received the House of Commons Library Briefing Paper Number CBP 8400 that looks at Social Mobility in the 533 Constituencies in England which put South Dorset at number 533 or in other words bottom.

I'm sure I'm not saying anything that you are not already aware of, but this is stark reading. I acknowledge that our problems are common to many seaside towns, but we seem to be suffering more than most.

We have an area that is a fantastic place to live, work and visit for many of us, with some of the best natural assets in the Country, we need to ensure we can use them to improve the lives of all our residents.

Kind regards

MOTION for Portland town Council – Full Council Meeting 26 June 2019

We all know of the challenges facing us as our water, land and air become more polluted by the day. We also know that earth's rising temperatures are causing the earth's climate to change and threaten both human and non-human existence on earth.

Our political establishment struggles to protect its people from the pollution all around us arising from the many pressures placed upon our councils and governments. Pressures brought about by

- corporations raping the earth's resources for profit, and
- blind consumerism

Extinction Rebellion tell us that:

- 200 species are lost every day
- every month extreme weather, floods, wildfires, droughts and crop failures are leading us to worldwide famine and mass starvation, and
- we have 12 years to significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and keep the earth's temperature from rising to mass extinction levels

I move to ask Portland Town Council, in line with our government and other councils around the country, to:

- 1 DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY tonight, and
- 2 immediately set up a WORKING GROUP of Councillors to explore, identify and take action to reduce Portland's local impact on climate change and pollution

Proposer: Giovanna Lewis

Seconder: TBA

Incomes, Poverty and Social Mobility in South Dorset

Recent reports have revealed that low wages, poverty and poor social mobility are key issues in South Dorset. Weymouth and Portland being particularly disadvantaged.

The Social Mobility Commission's "State of the Nation 2017" report, assessed social mobility across all local authority areas in the Country. Weymouth and Portland, which contains the bulk of the South Dorset's population, was placed third from bottom of England's 324 local authority areas.

A House of Commons Library Briefing Paper, CBP 8400, published in 2019, assessed social mobility across all parliamentary constituencies. South Dorset was placed last among the 533 constituencies in England.

A report on the future of seaside towns, published in 2019 by The House of Commons Select Committee on Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities assessed challenges faced by all seaside areas. Weymouth and Portland was referred to on several occasions, with the report noting particularly severe problems with low levels of attainment in secondary schools; reliance on part-time jobs, with the lowest wages in the UK; severe difficulty in encouraging students who leave the area to return after graduation; and a population of transient renters in low-cost housing that is three times higher than the rest of Dorset.

End Child Poverty released a report in May 2019 on children living in poverty across the UK. In Weymouth and Portland 30% of children live in poverty, with particularly high levels in Weymouth East (39%), Melcombe Regis (39%) and Underhill (40%).

The GMB Union also released a report in May 2019 that assessed wage levels across the UK, using ONS statistics. This revealed that 25% of jobs in Weymouth and Portland pay less than the Real Living Wage with 6,500 working residents in Weymouth and Portland being paid less than £9 an hour. More than half of this total was represented by part-time jobs, giving evidence of an under-employed workforce on poverty wages.

Many of the most disadvantaged residents in South Dorset are denied life chances to which they aspire. If we fail to improve social mobility we risk Weymouth and Portland becoming blighted communities. Council is determined to improve social mobility across the County. A thriving and prosperous Weymouth and Portland will be a good thing for the area – and for Dorset as a whole.

Dorset's micro-climate, transport infrastructure and world-class environment attracts older more affluent residents to live in the County and our economy benefits significantly from their personal spending. They in turn rely on a resilient and economically successful semi-skilled and skilled workforce to service their lifestyle aspirations. It's in all our interests that the workforce is supported and encouraged to remain in Dorset. Improving social mobility will provide the key underpinning to Dorset's aspirations of future prosperity and is therefore vitally important to all of Dorset's social strata's.

The formation of our new Unitary Authority provides a great opportunity to ensure we fully acknowledge the scale of the problem and commit to taking effective action. Work to improve social mobility is already underway with activity in areas such as economic growth, housing, community safety, health and education. However, given the evidence in recent reports we need to acknowledge that we need more effective action with better monitoring of outcomes.

Notice of Motion

Council acknowledges that improving social mobility requires a decisive co-ordinated effort. Council needs to provide visible and effective leadership to lead a multi-agency approach that drives improvement.

Council resolves that a Cabinet member, together with an Executive Director, will be accountable for improving social mobility in Dorset, with a focus on Weymouth and Portland. Together, they will be tasked to create and lead a multi-agency Team that will develop and deliver an overarching strategic plan. This Team should ensure all action is effectively targeted, accountability is clear and that progress can be effectively assessed. The initial Team meeting should take place within one month and an initial Plan should be in place within six months.

Council has already declared it will work in an inclusive manner across all its work. Council will ensure that the Team involves all stakeholders with relevant experiences and skills. There is a pressing need to ensure that action is taken where it is most needed and that communities can see progress being made. To this end Council will invite relevant community groups to join the Team, both to provide valuable inputs and to provide progress reports to the community.

Council will task the relevant overview and scrutiny committee to review progress at quarterly intervals so that independent challenge and scrutiny is in place.

A progress report should be a standing agenda item for all Cabinet meetings, so that progress can be assessed and momentum maintained.

Report references

Social Mobility Commission report "State of the Nation 2017"

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662744/State_of_the_Nation_2017 - Social Mobility in Great Britain.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662744/State_of_the_Nation_2017_-_Social_Mobility_in_Great_Britain.pdf)

House of Commons Library Briefing Paper Number CBP 8400

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8400#fullreport>

The future of seaside towns report

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201719/ldselect/ldseaside/320/320.pdf>

End Child Poverty

<http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/poverty-in-your-area-2019/>

GMB report on wages

<https://www.gmb-southern.org.uk/news/dorset-wilts-residents-earning-less-living-wage>

School Holiday Lunch Club – Cllr S Cocking

As well as being a Dorset Councillor ,I am also a Portland Town Councillor .In 2018 Portland Town Council embarked on a project, which I became the lead councillor on ,and that was to save a disused school Brackenbury Infant School in Fortuneswell, Underhill ,Portland ,which has one of the highest levels of deprivation in the country and refurbish the building into a Community Hub and with a new base for PTC .After a transfer from the former DDC and successful LEADER grant funding we completed the project in December 2018, apart from housing our new offices ,it has a nursery on site for babies 3 months to 5 year olds ,various community and church groups use the hub, also the National Careers Service hold a weekly job/work clinic there .We have renamed it Portland Community Venue .

What I would like to do at the Venue is to offer a lunch club for children during School holidays .We hear a lot about families who can't afford to feed their families ,during the school holidays especially the long summer holiday .At the venue we have a great kitchen and hall that could accommodate this project .My aim is to start a pilot project with 6 to 8 children for about two hours twice a week .The other aims and vision of the project would be for the children to have an understanding of healthy food ,where their food comes from i.e. milk does not come from Tesco's ,plan and help prepare their own menu ,and eventually we have a bit of land on the side they could grow some of their own food.

My reason for this email is

1. I am not requesting any funding; I would approach supermarkets and allotment holders for any excess food they may want to donate
2. Is this project viable? or would safeguarding or any other policies may restrict us to access to the families in need most of this type of service?
3. How would I get the data or access to invite these children to this project, would it be social services or a data base of children who get free school meals?
4. I understand the implications of food hygiene regulations as I use to run my own catering business

I appreciate that you are extremely busy at the moment, however I would like the opportunity to discuss this matter further with yourself or a member of your team, either at a meeting or over the phone.

I know this may be ambitious, but I aim to do even a week or two for the impending summer holidays

Report from Cllr Hughes on attendance at DAPTC Meeting

I attended my first meeting of Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils on Tuesday the 4th of June. The meeting venue was Frampton Village Hall Dorset.

I was made to feel most welcome by the chairman Mr. Alan Tracker of Knightsford parish council and Kirsty Riglar Central Area Committee Secretary. They also wished ex cllr. Rod Wild a happy retirement from his council duties.

The invited guest speaker on the evening was Mr. Michael Moon Head of Service (Operations), for Dorset Waste Partnership. He explained to all present that the waste partnership would be covering the new BCP council area for the the next two years whilst the change over to the new council settled in, everything else around Dorset carries on as normal.

The meeting was attended by 8 other councillors from numerous councils. It was announced that three other new councils had joined DAPTC they are:

Christchurch, Weymouth and the Highcliffe & Walkford Neighbourhood Council.

I informed the councillors present that we hoped to have another member from Portland Council as a deputy in case I was unable to attend meetings in the future due to other commitments on my time as a councillor for Dorset Council.

Rob