

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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31st May 2017

To: All Members of the Partnership

MARINE, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM PARTNERSHIP

Dear Member

You are hereby summoned to attend a **MEETING** of the **MARINE, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM PARTNERSHIP**, to be held in **PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE, REFORNE** on **WEDNESDAY, 7TH JUNE 2017**, commencing at 7.00 pm when the business set out below will be transacted.

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

Yours sincerely

Ian Looker
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. **Chairman** – to elect the Chairman of the Marine, Environment & Tourism Partnership for 2017/18
2. **Chairman's Welcome**
3. **Apologies for Absence**
4. **Declarations of Interest** – to receive any declarations from Councillors or Officers of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests regarding matters to be considered at this meeting, together with a statement on the nature of those interests
5. **Deputy Chairman** – to elect the Deputy Chairman of the Partnership for 2017/8
6. **Minutes of the Meeting Held on 30th November 2016** – to approve and sign (see attached)
7. **Notes of the Meeting Held on 1st March 2017** – to receive (see attached)
8. **Minute Update and Matters Arising** (see attached)
9. **Neighbourhood Plan** – to receive a report from Mr Matthews
10. **Overgrown Vegetation** – to receive updates and consider any further action
11. **Pebbles Signage** – to receive an update from Mr Matthews
12. **Broadband Provision** – to receive updates
13. **Fingerposts** – to receive updates
14. **Japanese Knotweed** – to receive a verbal report from Cllr. Lees and consider further the Council's strategy (see attached)
15. **Public Footpaths** – to receive copies of correspondence to Dorset County Council and invite comment (see attached)

16. Standard Agenda Items (by exception)

- (a) Disused Quarries (Portland Town Plan 2B)
- (b) Litter and Fly-Tipped Material (PTP 2C)
- (c) Run-Down Areas (PTP 2I)
- (d) Open Spaces, Hedgerows, Footpaths and Dry-Stone Walls (PTP 2E, 2F)
- (e) Cycle Paths

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Marine, Environment & Tourism Partnership will be held on Wednesday, 6th September 2017, starting at 7.00 pm, the venue yet to be decided.

MEMBERSHIP:-

Cllr. Sue Lees (Chair)	Portland Town Council
Cllr. Sandy West (Deputy Chair)	Portland Town Council
All Town Councillors	Portland Town Council
Simon King	Economic Regeneration, Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
Derek Luckhurst	Agincare
Jen Reeves-Grey (?)	CRAB / Agincare
Cllr. Sue Lees	Chesil Equestrian Centre
Philip George	Court Leet
Jane White	Crown Estate
Tara Hansford	Dorset Local Access Forum
Leo Henley Lock	Dorset Wildlife Trust
Alison Smith	Jurassica
Victoria Webbon	Land Trust
Geoff Peters	National Coastwatch Institution
Ruth Carpenter	Natural England
Andy Matthews	Portland Community Partnership
Sandie Wilson / Frank Cox	Portland Port Ltd
Hannah Sofaer / Paul Crabtree	Portland Sculpture and Quarry Trust
Cllr. Rod Wild	Portland Seafarers Support and Association for Portland Archaeology
Rowena Riley	The Churches Conservation Trust
Paul Glover	The History Society
Peter Allam	Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy
Mike Deadman	Weymouth and Portland Tourism Board
Peter Staddon	Working for a Better Portland

Requests for agenda items are welcome from all members of the Partnership. They should be sent to the Clerk no less than two weeks before the date of the meeting.

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MARINE, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD AT EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL, EASTON WEDNESDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER 2016

PRESENT: Councillors Ms S. Lees (Chairman), Mrs S. Cocking, R. Nowak, Mrs S. Reynolds, D. Thurston and R. Wild, together with Philip George (Crown Estate), Jane White (Court Leet), Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institution), Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership), Hannah Sofaer (Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust), Paul Glover (History Society), Peter Allam (Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy), Mike Deadman (Weymouth & Portland Tourist Board) and Geoff Proctor (Portland Museum)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk)

1160 – CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

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

1161 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Ms J. Atwell, J. Draper, C. Flack, C. Gover, D. Symes and Mrs S. West, together with Leo Henley Lock (Dorset Wildlife Trust) and Rowena Riley (Churches Conservation Trust).

1162 – 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.

1163 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31ST AUGUST 2016

Minute 1154 – Pebbles Signage

Mr Matthews asked that the minute take account also of issues concerning flooding and coastal erosion. With this amendment the minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

1164 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

No issues were raised.

1165 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Mr Matthews brought members up to date. They were still waiting for consultants to start the Government-funded technical study. Copies of the economic development summary were issued at the meeting. The Community Partnership had put in a bid for £500,000 of Coastal Communities funding to support the private tourism initiative at Castletown. Mr Matthews also quoted a Royal Society of Arts survey, which placed Weymouth & Portland in the top ten nationally in terms of heritage assets, but much lower for explaining that heritage.

1166 – JAPANESE KNOTWEED

There was no further discussion.

1167 – OVERGROWN PAVEMENTS ETC ON THE ISLAND

Cllr. Cocking had some addresses of landowners with encroaching hedges for the Clerk to write to. Hannah Sofaer will provide more.

Cllr. Lees reported that Stone Firms were responding on their property to an enforcement notice issued by the County.

1168 – PEBBLES SIGNAGE

Mr Matthews explained the background of £5,000 grant money held by the Community Partnership as a result of the storms in 2014. The stipulations were that it had to be spent on flooding measures and encourage entrepreneurship among young people. The sandbag store envisaged had proved to be too expensive to achieve.

From discussion it was agreed to seek further advice from the Environment Agency, contact IPACA to seek its involvement and bring the issue to Town Council.

1169 – BROADBAND PROVISION

Mr Allam thought the letter received from the County was misleading over statements concerning Osprey Quay. Some of the businesses there had found their own solutions. He would report back after a meeting of Osprey Quay tenants the following week. Mr Peters said the impression had been given that broadband on the Island would be an Olympic legacy, but reception at the Bill remained very poor.

1170 – PALM TREES

The Clerk was asked to write to the person concerned who made the offer expressing the Council's thanks and that it would investigate further, also asking what variety of palm trees they would be.

1171 – FINGERPOSTS

Mr George said the Court Leet was working towards replacing the one on Weston Street. The fingerpost by Easton Gardens was removed some years ago and he was also aware of one that had been at the junction of Southwell and Portland Bill Roads. Cllr. Wild mentioned another on what he called the "German Road", a footpath from Wide Street to Bowers Quarry, which had rotted through.

1172 – DOG WASTE BAGS

Cllr. Lees indicated her intention to bring a motion for the Council to finance the availability of these waste bags on the Island. The merits and demerits of the subject were discussed and Cllr. Lees undertook to reconsider her proposed motion.

1173 – PORTLAND MAPS

Mr Deadman reported on recent tourism matters and requested Council sponsorship of £1,000 for a new reprint of the maps. It was **RECOMMENDED** – that the request be taken to full Council.

1174 – STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)

a) Disused Quarries

Cllr. Wild pointed out the use of Tout Quarry as a backdrop to two recent television programmes without acknowledgement.

b) Litter and Fly-Tipped Material

Mr Glover reported fly-tipping on the allotments behind the Clifton Hotel.

d) Open Spaces, Hedgerows, Footpaths and Dry-Stone Walls

Mr George said the dry-stone walls along Portland Bill Road had in fact been registered by the Crown Estate. Damage to them was currently being assessed, since some is criminal. The expense of repairing these sections would be considerable.

1175 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at Peter Trim Hall, St. George's Centre, Reforne on Wednesday, 1st March 2017, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.

Signed (Chair) Date

Notes of MET March 1st

Present

Cllr Sue Lees - Cllr David Thurston – Cllr Rod Wild – Cllr Jo Atwell – Cllr Jim Draper - Cllr Susan Cocking – Cllr Charlie Flack – Cllr Ray Nowak

Leo Henley Lock , DWT , Peter Allum , WPNSA , Jen Reeves Gray ,AGINCARE , Stephen George, D-DAY Centre , Jane White ,Court Leet , Phillip George , Crown Estate/ Court Leet , Seb Brooke , MEMO, Andy Mathews , PCP, Hanna Sofaer , PSQT

Apologies – Cllr Sandra Reynolds

Chair welcome – Cllr Sue Lees apologised for the slight delay and was unsure why the Town Clerk was not at the meeting but suggested we have the presentation from MEMO and deal with reports and updates as best we can .

MEMO

Seb Brookes said that despite there being a lull in information in the public domain of recent behind the scenes the project was moving on . This was now in its 10th year as a project from conception but its all about finding the best options , the funding and the best people to help make it come together and that can take time , so he was not disappointed or disheartened of how MEMO was progressing .

Recent developments mean that there could be a first stage opening as soon as 2019 . The major difference being that they now had the option to move MEMO to the Jordan Mine workings , this would save the cost of building the proposed tower , give an all-weather facility . The interior of the mine would give a huge 30 foot high canvass for direct carvings, displays and high tech visuals . Initially it would be just a small part of the mine used by MEMO but with the potential of expanding .

It was estimated 325k of visitors per year , which would create 79 fte employed on site , which would indirectly support 1000 jobs and many local companies , creating a 24M impact .

“This tiny Island telling the biggest story of all “

General discussion was supportive , there were questions about the impact of the number of visitors and the traffic etc Seb pointed out that studies of other attractions showed the average was 3.1 persons per car , so its not 325k cars plus Portland has an excellent bus service and they hope to promote its use to access MEMO . It was mentioned that the Island has experienced higher car capacity for events at National Sailing Academy, b- Side and the Olympics , the difference was they were short period rather than all year . Seb said that they would be mindful of key times and the opening times would not clash with the school run or travel to work/ home.

Neighbourhood Plan

Jim Draper And Andy Mathews updated progress on NP – all the updates will be added to the Website shortly , detailed discussion next week , Heritage Character assessment . Working Group March 8th .

Overgrown roadside vegetation

Sue Lees reported , a number of owners had assisted with cutting back scrub etc and DWT have just done Wide St.

Pebbles Signage

Andy Mathews reported that there would be informative leaflets and displays to get younger people interested / involved

Broadband

Peter Allam reported a new cabinet should be operating to support Osprey area shortly

Palm Trees

Rod Wild reported that the offer of Palm Trees had been directed towards Victoria Gardens to consider

Finger Posts

Phillip George that Court Leet were restoring, via a specialist voluntary group , the Weston Street sign . The signs for Southwell and Easton Garden were still missing.

Dog Waste Bags

Sue Lees advised the cost of purchase of dispensers and bags . 10 bins £74 each ,1600 bags £325 . That permission would be required from DWP to attach the dispensers. Scheme like this had worked in Cornwall and Norfolk. General discussion, concluded that dog poo and litter was an on-going problem but there was concern that the bags would just be taken. That maybe *PTC could reconsider a volunteer training scheme but that had previously been rejected as it was considered difficult to ask people to take on such a role without any legal enforcement.*

It was agreed that the Town Clerk should write to WPBC asking that the new task force Wardens should include Portland and not just the town centre of Weymouth.

South Dorset Local Action Group

Spring Forum 7th March , South Dorset LAG had assisted with funding at Whitestones and PSQT

Litter / Flytipping

Noted Cheyne House , across the road and the entrance to to the Path were once again looking bad and needed action

Town Clerk to enquire of DWP if they will still offer Skips to formal orgained litter picks and what arrangement they could offer if we just do light litter picks can we use the HRC to dispose of the rubbish

Run Down Area

It was asked what was happening re High Street

Ray Nowak reported that No 11 had at last been compulsory purchased by WPBC , that there were on-going discussions of a potential development on the property and adjoining site . WPBC had agreed a budget so it was now about sealing the terms with a local builder . This had taken 4 years to deal with the compulsory purchase made more complex due to the death of the owner .

Jen Reeves Gray , raised concern of the state of the Jolly Sailor pub at Castletown

It was noted that the Advertising Hoardings at Victoria Gardens and the one in Fortuenswell had their appeal refused so these will have to come down . PTC had pressed for removal for some time .

Verne Common

The project to enhance the common land will require some fencing to hold the goats / sheep . This will be a significant enhancement to the area and will engage with the local community via virtual shepherds.

Footpaths

Sue Cocking mentioned footpath of Weston Rd , access was being blocked , this followed use by some trial bikers

- Watery Lane still a problem and even more so with lots more children using to go to school
- Merchants Incline , constant litter problem
- *Suggested invite to David Ackerly / Dawn Aitkens to give a talk*
- Dry Stone walls around the Windmills development were not using Portland stone , we need to make the point at future planning applications that such walls should be stipulated as Portland stone
- Sue Lees reminded all that Chicken Flu was a serious issues and we should all be reminding poultry owners to lock the birds up at night . That a note should also go on the PTC Wed site

Cycle Path

Jim Draper suggested that a working group will be dealing with possible funding for a Cycle Path and could *Cycle Path be added to the regular agenda updates etc – Agreed*

D-Day Centre

Opening 23th March , all welcome . The planning permission had been given for the 6 concrete manikins to be installed on the Cassion

PSQT

Hanah reported that funding had been achieved for the Memory Stones , and the first stage of the installation will be late March a formal celebration event will take place in June

PTC / Royal Manor Field

Ray reported that DCC had offered PTC the lease on Royal Manor School Field for the next 35 years , so it will remain as open space . This will give PTC the opportunity to create Events to offset the costs of grass cutting and maintenance etc.

Meeting closed at 9.15

ITALICISED

Need follow –up from Town Clerk

Ray Nowak (Cllr)

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

The most recent action taken by the Council appears under Minute 1152 of the Partnership from the meeting on 31st August 2016:-

“Cllr. Nowak reported that he had been monitoring sites with knotweed on the Island, now at least eleven, and taken it up with officers at the County and Borough, though with little success. He felt either that the relevant legislation was insufficiently strong or was largely being ignored. It was agreed to write to Richard Drax MP to urge that more strenuous action be taken to prevent the spread of knotweed.”

Mr Drax enquired of DEFRA on the Council's behalf and the reply of the Minister responsible was brought to the Partnership meeting of 30th November 2016. This included reference to the Environment Agency document, “Japanese knotweed: managing on development sites”, available on the gov.uk website. Legal remedies appear to lie either with Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or Community Protection Notices (CPNs) issued under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

601
9 MAY 2017

4 Croft Road
Weston
Portland
Dorset
DT5 2HQ

Tel: [REDACTED]

8th May 2017

Dorset County Council
County Hall
Colliton Park
Dorchester
Dorset
DT21 1XJ

Attn: Rights of Way Team

Your Ref: 20150316/0610

**PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY – TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF FOOTPATH NUMBER 35 and THE
REDUCITION IN WIDTH OF THE FOOTPATH ADJACENT TO BLACKNOR FORT**

1. On the 9th April 2015 I wrote to your Department regarding Public Footpath 35 (copy attached), an update would be appreciated.,
2. Whilst on the subject of Public Rights of Way, could I draw your attention to the footpath which runs adjacent to Blacknor Fort and joins the Coastal Path, which runs from Priory Corner down to Portland Bill. The footpath used to be approx. 3 feet in width, with an area of rough undergrowth of approx 3 feet wide next to it and then the wall of the "Fort". The path is now about 2 feet wide and the area of undergrowth is now hardcore infill contained in wire cages (looks like foundations for a wall)
3. A response to the above questions by "E" Mail to [REDACTED], or by letter, would be much appreciated. The subject of the temporary closure of Footpath 35 has been dragging on for quite some time.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

G Easton

Copy to: Portland Council Office

4 Croft Road
Weston
Portland
Dorset
DT5 2HQ

Tel: [REDACTED]

9th April 2015

Dorset County Council
County Hall
Colliton Park
Dorchester
Dorset
DT21 1XJ

Attn: Rights of Way Team

Your Ref: 20150316/0610 dated 16 March

PUBLIC FOOTPATH NUMBER 35 – PORTLAND- TEMPORARY CLOSURE

1. I used "Dorset for You" to enquire when the above Public Footpath, which was located at grid reference 69383/70962 and running in a north easterly direction to grid reference 69475/71183, was due to re-open (It was "Temporary Closed" on the 16th July 2010). You acknowledged receipt of my enquiry on the 16th March.
2. On 8th April I rang 01305 221020, hopefully to get an update on the situation regarding my enquiry, the lady who answered the phone said that she did not recognise your reference number, but said that she would contact the "Rights of Way Team" and that they would ring me back.
3. As no one has, as yet rang, it would be appreciated if someone would ring me/E Mail me the following information:
 - a. Is there a date for Public Footpath 35 to be available for use?
 - b. Is there a finite limit to how long a Public Footpath can be "Temporary Closed"?

Yours faithfully

G Easton