

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16TH JUNE 2010, COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillors D. Thurston (Chair), L. Ames, Mrs S. Bradley, Mrs J. Collinge, R. Denton-White, M. Gosling, R. Hughes and I. Munro-Price.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. John Lewis (Mayor's Assistant Chaplain) and PC Mike Holman (Dorset Police).

1759 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Assistant Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

1760 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors G. Duncan, Mrs E. Munro-Price and Mrs S. West.

1761 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1762 – OPEN FORUM

a) Public Half-Hour

Cllr. Denton-White, speaking as a member of the public, drew attention to the "Local Index," which made no mention of the Town Council. The Clerk was asked to write to the publisher and rectify this.

b) Police Question Time

Cllr. Denton-White asked about the Tillycombe fatality. PC Holman said the case was not closed. It was considered there was insufficient evidence for a prosecution and the case would only reopen if new evidence was found.

Cllr. Ames raised a case of arson in Weston Road. PC Holman understood there were some suspects and offered to find out more.

Cllr. Collinge asked again about the recent stabbing in Fortuneswell. PC Holman had no knowledge of further developments.

1763 – MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19TH MAY 2010

The minutes of the meeting were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

1764 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

a) Minute 1742(b), para 2 – Under-Age Drinking

Responding to a query from Cllr. Collinge, PC Holman reported that an adult was being prosecuted in this connection.

b) Minute 1744(b) – Postage Costs

Answering Cllr. Denton-White, the Clerk said the review of postal machine costs was ongoing.

c) Minute 1745, para 3 – Council Meeting Procedure

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price asked the Chair to clarify when members should stand to speak. Cllr. Thurston said he would normally expect this to occur after the routine Town Council agenda items concluded by “Written Questions for the Mayor.”

1765 – TOWN MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. Thurston reported that he had recently received a letter from the captain of HMS Portland, giving details of the ship’s latest itinerary.

1766 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR

Referring to Minute 1754, Cllr. Thurston said he had received a letter from Laura Kitching of the Echo, responding to the Council’s concerns about a lack of publicity for Portland in its pages. The point made by Miss Kitching in her reply, about the Echo being willing to print press releases and other material presented, was taken.

1767 – FINANCE & PROJECTS COMMITTEE, 2ND JUNE 2010

Minute 999 – Administration Accommodation

The Council considered the two recommendations and **RESOLVED** – (1) that the Council send a formal request to the Borough Council to use the Social Services office, emphasising the health and safety issues, and (2) that the Personnel Group be delegated to make a decision regarding any particular aspect of the move that was required urgently.

1768 – AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

From the Chair Cllr. Thurston proposed that in Standing Order 33 on Disorderly Conduct paragraph (c) be amended to read, “If, in the opinion of the Town Mayor, a Councillor has broken the provisions of paragraph **(b)** of this order...”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Ames, and in accordance with Standing Order 73 stands adjourned until the next meeting of the Council.

1769 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

The Clerk pointed out a slight decrease in the annual insurance premium because the Council was no longer paying insurance for the Upham watercolours, of which the Borough Council has recently claimed ownership since 1974.

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2398 – 2407) in the sum of £3,612.98 including VAT be authorised for payment.

b) Annual Financial Report, 2009/10

RESOLVED – that the annual governance statement for the year ending 31st March 2010 be approved and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

The meeting also considered the internal auditor's report in both parts. Cllr. Thurston said that the required review of the internal auditor's report would be dealt with by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Ian Munro-Price.

1770 – PORTLAND FAIR

It was agreed that the five-year agreement between the Borough and Town Councils and SWRDA should correspond with the licence agreement between the Town and Fair operator, to start in 2011.

1771 – FINANCE & PROJECTS COMMITTEE

In the absence of the Committee Chair, Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price, who had requested a debate it was **RESOLVED** – that discussion of its delegated powers be adjourned to the next meeting of the Council.

1772 – TOWN CRIER

Cllr. Denton-White gave a verbal report on the recent meeting of the Town Crier Working Group and its interview of Mr Stuart Cave. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** – (1) that Mr Stuart Cave be offered the post of Town Crier, (2) no honorarium be offered for the post, (3) reasonable travel expenses be paid by the Council to the postholder, and (4) that the Council pay the Crier's annual subscription fee, currently £25, for membership of the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers.

It was further **RESOLVED** – that the Council accept the terms of reference framed by the Working Group, subject to another meeting of the Group regarding those terms that deal with commercial interests. The Group is to take advice where necessary and bring its report back to the next meeting of the Town Council.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Cave, provisionally offering him the post, subject to the revised terms of reference.

The Working Group was also asked to consider the precise name for the Town Crier, whether it should be "Bellman."

1773 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

a) Portland Stone & Quarry Trust

Cllr. Collinge reported that she and Cllr. Bradley had written a letter in support of the Trust's latest bid for funding. Cllr. Thurston had also written.

b) Rights Respecting Community Group

Cllr. Hughes had attended the Group's last meeting. An evening meeting with the local Rotary Club was coming up soon.

c) DAPTC

Cllr. Denton-White reported that the Association's Executive Committee had rejected the Council's request for a reduced subscription fee. He also indicated that the new Government was seeking to give further powers to parish councils.

Cllr. Ames and the Clerk indicated their willingness to attend Association meetings if Cllr. Denton-White was unavailable.

d) Mineral Liaison Committee

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price reported on the recent meeting when alleged problems with dust and debris from Stone Firms lorries had been discussed. He also requested that more Town Councillors seek to attend the Committee's meetings.

e) Transport

Cllr. Ames stated that the Relief Road scheme was on schedule for completion in February 2011. Regarding difficulties that had arisen with the Weymouth Transport Package he said the County were considering synchronisation of traffic lights, but there had been some improvement in conditions during the previous week.

1774 – PARISH LENGTHSMAN

RESOLVED – that the Council should appoint a lengthsman in accordance with the Dorset County Council partnership agreement.

1775 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 14th July 2010 commencing at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm.

Signed..... Dated.....
(Chair)