

## PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

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12<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend the **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**, to be held in **EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL, EASTON, PORTLAND** on **WEDNESDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016**, commencing at **7.00 pm** when the business set out below will be transacted.

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

The meeting will be preceded at **6.00 pm** by a **training session** in private on the **Code of Conduct** led by Roger Greene, the Dorset Councils Partnership monitoring officer. I hope you will make every effort to attend.

Yours faithfully

Ian Looker  
Town Clerk

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Chairman's Welcome**
- 2. Prayers**
- 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. Open Forum**
  - a) Police Question Time**
  - b) Public Half-Hour** (Limit: three minutes per speaker, thirty minutes total)
  - c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors**
- 6. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016** (attached)
- 7. Minute Update and Matters Arising from the Minutes** (attached)
- 8. Written Questions for the Chairman**
- 9. Town Mayor's Announcements**
- 10. Financial Matters** – to consider:-
  - a) Council Bank Accounts:** Report by the Clerk (attached)
  - b) Payments for Authorisation** (to follow)
  - c) 2016/17 Financial Report to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016** (attached)
  - d) External Auditor's Report** (attached)
  - e) Council Offices: Auctions** – to consider further action (see Minute Update, item [g])
- 11. Finance & Staffing Working Group, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016** – to consider recommendations for the Offices concerning:-
  - a) Fire Precautions Work
  - b) Heating (see confidential attachments for [a] and this)
  - c) Damp Survey

12. **Events & Tourism Working Group, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016** – to consider a recommendation that the four Lottery-funded events be as follows:-  
December 2016 – Easton Promise  
Easter, 2017 – Easter Bunny Run  
Early August – Go Karting  
September – Harvest Special
13. **Deputy Town Mayor** – to appoint a successor to Councillor David Symes, who has recently resigned (see attached)
14. **Finance & Staffing Working Group** – to consider membership of the Group (see attached)
15. **Events & Tourism Working Group** – to consider membership of the Group (see attached)
16. **Local Government Reorganisation in Dorset** – to receive a report from the Chairman
17. **Mayor’s Plaque** – to consider a suggestion from the Island of Portland Heritage Trust (attached)
18. **Fortuneswell Offices: Deed of Receipt and Release** – to consider legal advice received and the recommendations therein (see attached)
19. **Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies and Voluntary Posts**
20. **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.”
21. **Date of Next Meeting**  
The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place at the Easton Methodist Church Hall, Easton on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016, starting at 7.00 pm.

## **PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

### **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 IN PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors R. Nowak (Chairman), Mrs S. Cocking, C. Flack, C. Gover, Ms S. Lees, Mrs S. Reynolds, D. Thurston and R. Wild.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. Chris Briggs (Mayor's Chaplain), Cllr. Paul Kimber (Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), Andy Matthews (Finance & Staffing Working Group and Neighbourhood Plan Working Group) and nine members of the public.

#### **3247 – CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

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

#### **3248 – PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

#### **3249 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Ms J. Atwell, J. Draper, A. Sergison and Mrs S. West.

#### **3250 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs. Cocking and Wild both declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 12 – West Weares: Portland Community Partnership Agreement with Dorset Wildlife Trust.

#### **3251 – OPEN FORUM**

##### **a) Police Question Time**

No representative of the Police was present.

##### **b) Public Half-Hour**

Andy Matthews spoke concerning the minutes of the Town Council meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> August. He requested that minute 3230 reflect the request made from the floor that the principal authorities involved in the reorganisation are supportive of any request by the Town Council for modernisation funding in order to move the Council forward, also that in any submission made concerning reorganisation the Council consider formally lodging a copy of the staffing review report undertaken in 2014.

Carrie Dalby expressed concern that the Council's grant from the Big Lottery might affect other applications involving the Gardens.

From the chair Cllr. Nowak advised that the Council had requested a change in the terms of its grant to substitute public open spaces for specific references to the Gardens.

June Morley requested a change to minute 3234(b) for the second sentence to read, "She thought some of the article ..." She also asked for confirmation in writing of the change to the Lottery bid.

Regarding Agenda Item 17 Richard Denton-White supported the division of roles between Chairman and Mayor.

Roger Luther asked why the lights to the toilets in Easton Gardens were still switched on late in the evening. The Chairman said the responsibility lay with the Borough and he would raise the matter there.

Rachel Barton said she had heard a recording of the August meeting and was concerned about remarks that had been made then about her. She wanted to place the following facts before the Council:-

- 1) The Town Council approached Barton Consultancy to research funding options. The areas chosen for the bid were based on previous consultations, including one by the Borough Parks Department. More events in the gardens had been among the suggestions received.
- 2) The use of professionals by local authorities to source funding is not uncommon and she had been employed in such a role on numerous occasions.
- 3) It was not helpful that people were allowed to question her probity and motives in a public forum.

### **c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

Cllr. Kimber publicised a coffee morning at the Library. He is hoping a Friends of the Library Group can be formed as a means to providing more facilities there for young people. The community bus scheme is now developing into a success and he had received a recent complaint that the bus was too full!

His main emphasis was on grass-cutting. He had complained to Dorset Highways that the amount of cutting on the Island this year was "completely unacceptable." The manager responsible was willing to provide details of the current schedule and provide extra cuts if other organisations were willing to pay. He suggested the Town Council invite the Highways officer to speak at a meeting. There followed a prolonged discussion of the issues involved.

### **3252 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, 17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2016**

Council agreed to amend minute 3234(b), second sentence to begin, "She thought some of the article ..." With this change the minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

### **3253 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### **a) Minute 3216(c) (Meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016) – Internet Banking**

Cllr. Cocking said that Lloyds would make a charge for the service. The Clerk differed. The Chairman requested this be resolved subsequently outside the meeting.

#### **b) Minute 3236(b) – Jubilee Pillars Site**

Cllr. Thurston asked if the grass would be cut there prior to this year's Fair.

It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – that the Council write to the Land Trust again, expressing its concern about the situation and willingness to discuss it.

**c) Minute 3236(c) – Mayors’ Plaques, Existing and Future**

Cllr. Reynolds asked the whereabouts of the Council’s stone plaque. Cllr. Nowak confirmed it was still in the keeping of Albion Stone.

**d) Minute 3240 – Council Offices: Auctions**

Cllr. Thurston asked whether the final payment had been received. Cllr. Nowak said there was still a sum of £430 outstanding.

It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – that letters be sent requesting payment within fourteen days.

**3254 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN**

There were none.

**3255 – TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In the absence of the Mayor, who was expected to arrive later, the Chairman postponed the item till further in the meeting, but the Mayor did not subsequently attend.

**3256 – REPORT FROM FINANCE & STAFFING WORKING GROUP** (not itemised on the agenda)

The Chairman of the Group, Cllr. Cocking said that at future meetings the Group’s recommendations from its last meeting would be included on the agenda.

It was proposed by Cllr. Cocking and **RESOLVED** – that responsibility for ongoing facilities work at the Offices should be delegated to the Finance & Staffing Working Group, which would then bring its recommendations to Council.

It was proposed by Cllr. Cocking and **RESOLVED** – that the £50,000 compensation sum received from the Borough be invested with Lloyds Bank in a six-month fixed interest account.

Other issues discussed by the Group were mentioned by Cllr. Cocking, but not debated or voted upon. **RESOLVED** – that the report be received.

**3257 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**a) Payments for Authorisation**

**RESOLVED** – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 3532, 3568 – 3592) in the sum of £7,389.87 including VAT be authorised for payment.

**b) 2016/17 Financial Report to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016**

**RESOLVED** – that the report be accepted.

**3258 – BIG LOTTERY GRANT**

Cllr. Nowak explained that he had discussed the matter of altering the application wording with the Lottery people over the phone and they were happy to accept the change without any future detriment to the Council. He therefore felt there was no need to take his motion any further and no one dissented.

**3259 – WEST WEARES: PORTLAND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH DORSET WILDLIFE TRUST**

**RESOLVED** – that the Council hold an exploratory meeting with Dorset Wildlife Trust and Portland Community Partnership to discuss the extent and financing of grass cutting at West Weares.

**3260 – PROPOSED DORSET AND EAST DEVON NATIONAL PARK**

**RESOLVED** – that the Council write to Natural England, copies to the County, Borough and Richard Drax, supporting the creation of a National Park locally as a good deal for Dorset and requesting Portland's inclusion.

**3261 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN DORSET**

The Chairman advised members that a public consultation was being held on the Island on 5<sup>th</sup> October. The Clerk was asked to arrange a separate meeting to take place after for Councillors to produce a corporate response to the consultation.

**3262 – ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**RESOLVED** – 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 15 – Fire Safety Risk Assessment by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**3263 – WASTE CARRIER REGISTRATION**

**RESOLVED** – that registration not be renewed.

**3264 – COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND TOWN MAYOR**

It was proposed by Cllr. Gover and **RESOLVED** – that the Council continues its present arrangement of separate Chairman and Town Mayor and seeks further advice on the subject.

**3265 – DAPTC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2016**

**RESOLVED** – that a motion be submitted to the meeting from the Council that the Local Government Act 1972 be amended to allow town councils to have a separate Chairman and Town Mayor if they so wish.

**3266 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS**

There were none.

**3267 – FIRE SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT**

**RESOLVED** – that the Council accept a specified quotation for a new fire alarm system at the Offices from those received and the Finance & Staffing Working Group continues to deal with the remaining issues.

**3268 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016, at Easton Methodist Church Hall, Easton starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm.

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



## MINUTE UPDATE

**a) Minute 3251(a) – Police Question Time**

We sent a letter to Sgt. Jane Moore at the end of last month querying the current lack of communication between the Police and the Council and inviting comment. We have not received a reply to date.

**b) Minutes 3251(b) and 3258 – Big Lottery Grant**

We still need to confirm changes to the bid in writing with the Lottery people, after which we shall write to the Friends of the Gardens.

**c) Minute 3251(b), para 4 – Lighting in Toilets at Easton Gardens**

The Chairman is awaiting a reply from the Borough.

**d) Minute 3251(c), para 2 – Grass Cutting on Island**

The possibility of inviting a Highways officer to speak on the subject will be given further consideration.

**e) Minute 3253(a) – Internet Banking**

The Clerk has written to Cllr. Cocking offering an explanation for the different perceptions.

**f) Minute 3253(b) – Jubilee Pillars Site**

The Land Trust have told us the grass on the site will be cut before the Fair arrives. They have also asked for a meeting with Council representatives to discuss the holding of the Fair in future years.

**g) Minute 3253(d) – Council Offices: Auctions**

We have written to those concerned on two occasions, the first time by recorded delivery, the second to notify the change of bank details. To our knowledge the money has not yet been paid. See Agenda Item 10(e).

**h) Minute 3256, para 3 – Reports from Finance & Staffing Working Group**

See Agenda Item 11.

**i) Minute 3257(a) – Payments for Authorisation**

See Agenda Items 10(a) and (b).

**j) Minute 3259 – West Weares**

The meeting with Portland Community Partnership and Dorset Wildlife Trust has not yet taken place. We are awaiting a response from the Trust.

**k) Minute 3260 – Proposed Dorset and East Devon National Park**

Letters were sent out as requested. We have received an acknowledgement from Natural England and a letter from Richard Drax. This said such a proposal would not affect the Island, it lacks popular support, would add a layer of

bureaucracy to local affairs, would inhibit development locally and would not increase tourist interest in Dorset.

**l) Minute 3265 – DAPTC AGM, 2016**

Blandford Town Council has already submitted a very similar motion and its DAPTC said its executive committee would be unlikely to accept a second to the same effect.

**m) Minute 3267 – Fire Safety Risk Assessment**

On further reflection I suggested that the work was not of a specialist nature and therefore another quotation should be sought to conform with our Financial Regulations. In fact two more quotations have been received for the work. See Agenda Item 11(a).

## COUNCIL BANK ACCOUNTS

Council decided at its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June to transfer to transfer its current account with Lloyds to the Unity Trust Bank. In fact there were two accounts at Lloyds, a “premier interest” account where most of the money was held and a linked “business” account of £500 which would deal initially with the cheques being paid out.

The application form we completed to Unity Trust requested the closing of our Lloyds accounts without specifying a date when this was to happen. Unity Trust opened an account for us on 9<sup>th</sup> August and on 26<sup>th</sup> August paid in a cheque from us for £500, the first deposit. The Lloyds accounts were both still open when the September batch of cheques were written. However on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September we received notification that on the 20<sup>th</sup> Unity Trust had received the entire amount in the Lloyds premier interest account and the Lloyds account was closed. We therefore raised a Unity Trust cheque for £10,000 and paid it into our Lloyds business account to provide funds for the outstanding payments. I also got in touch with creditors by e-mail and phone to inform them of the situation. I was told the £10,000 deposit would clear on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

In order to comply with Council’s decisions on 15<sup>th</sup> July to set up two fixed interest accounts and with Finance Working Group members’ agreement I paid a further cheque from Unity Trust to Lloyds for £50,000. At Lloyds’ request we had sent them a letter requesting the opening of a fixed interest account for this sum. Lloyds informed us that I would be telephoned within a few days to notify me of the current interest rate applicable and request confirmation of the account being set up.

On Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> October we received another letter from Unity Trust saying £53,976.02 had been transferred from Lloyds to Unity Trust and the business account had been closed. That same day I attempted to clarify the situation with Lloyds both at their Island branch and on the phone to their national business service. Because both Town Council accounts are closed the local staff can now only view “notes” left against the account numbers. Over the phone I also tried to pursue the issue of setting up a fixed interest account. However I was being passed from one department to another because we have lost most of our status as a Lloyds customer (we only have the separate “Portland Town Mayor” account now). Also as a local authority we don’t fit neatly into the category either of a business or charity. Eventually I have to say I gave up for the time being because of concern for other necessary office work.

I conclude therefore:-

- 1) Most of the September cheques have been paid. The indication from a final statement of the business account received today (12<sup>th</sup> October) is that two payments have not been cleared, a cheque for

£119.00 to the Post Office and a direct debit to Toshiba for £135.35. These will need to be followed up.

- 2) It will be more difficult to set up the fixed interest account now that it cannot be done by internal transfer. I shall make a further attempt soon when not under so much pressure of time.

## Portland Town Council - Financial Report, 19.10.16

	<b>Budget 2016/17</b>	<b>Expend. 2015/16</b>	<b>Expend. to 30.9.16</b>	<b>Projected 2016/17</b>	<b>Paid / Rec'd to Date (%)</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Salaries	29,844	30,333	14,796	29,600	49.58
Advertising	280	219	56	220	20.00
Audit	1,300	1,377	652	1,380	50.15
Bank Charges	0	0	145	190	-
Civic Expenditure	1,000	956	378	1,000	37.80
Computer Equipment	300	0	236	300	78.67
Computer Software	360	39	21	360	5.83
IT Support	250	175	0	200	0.00
Contingency	0	0	0	0	-
Council Offices	17,200 <sup>1</sup>	0	6,835	17,070	39.74
Elections	6,000	4,210	4,209	4,210	70.15
Furniture & Equipment	612	895	208	600	33.99
Hire of Halls	840	1,108	488	1,100	58.10
Honorarium	100	100	100	100	100.00
Insurance	1,500	1,309	1,250	1,250	83.33
Legal Fees	0	1,896	168	700	-
Mayoral Allowance	1,000	700	1,000	1,000	100.00
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	-
Postage	790	945	303	700	38.35
Publications	20	5	79	80	395.00
Stationery	850	719	236	570	27.76
Subscriptions	1,600	1,471	1,425	1,600	89.06
Telephone / Internet	500	598	291	700	58.20
Training / Conferences	1,000	389	285	600	28.50
Travelling & Subsistence	100	89	93	190	93.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>65,446</b>	<b>47,533</b>	<b>33,254</b>	<b>63,720</b>	<b>50.81</b>
Cheyne Weares	4,800	4,608	236	3,000	4.92
Gifts and Donations	100	70	0	70	0.00
Grants	1,750	2,232	0	1,000	0.00
Landscape Maintenance	5,000	52	1,152	2,000	23.04
Neighbourhood Plan	18,000	3,678	2,373	8,000	13.18
Office Move	3,800	163	3,897	4,300	102.55
Projects	4,150	1,375	400	4,150	9.64
Town Crier	50	35	35	35	70.00
Website	1,200	2,651	0	1,450	0.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>38,850</b>	<b>14,864</b>	<b>8,093</b>	<b>24,005</b>	<b>20.83</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104,296</b>	<b>62,397</b>	<b>41,347</b>	<b>87,725</b>	<b>39.64</b>

**INCOME**

Precept	63,679	50,723	63,686	63,679	100.01
Discount Grant	2,000	3,390	2,000	2,000	100.00
Compensation	0	0	50,000	50,000	-
Fair	1,750	1,375	0	1,000	0.00
Hire of Halls Refund	840	801	1,350	1,350	160.71
Interest	220	72	191	200	86.82
Lottery Fund Grant	0	0	5,800	5,800	-
Neighbourhood Plan Grant	15,000	2,500	4,500	15,000	30.00
Sale of Council Furniture	0	0	1,909	2,000	-
Other	0	70	20	20	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>83,489</b>	<b>58,931</b>	<b>129,456</b>	<b>141,049</b>	<b>155.06</b>

**SURPLUS / DEFICIT (-)** -20,807 -3,466 88,109 53,324  
**FOR YEAR**

**RESERVES RELEASED**

Cheyne Weares	4,800		236	3,000	
Council Offices	4,000		0	4,000	
Grants - Fair	0		0	0	
Landscape Maintenance	5,000		1,152	2,000	
Legal Fees	4,000		400	700	
Neighbourhood Plan	3,000		123	3,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,800</b>		<b>1,911</b>	<b>12,700</b>	
<b>Net Total after Reserve Release</b>	<b>-7</b>		<b>90,020</b>	<b>66,024</b>	

<sup>1</sup> £4,000 added from Reserves 17.8.16

## Council Offices

**Expend. to  
30.9.16**

Council Tax	494
Electricity	72
Rent	2,625
Waste Collection	16
Water & Sewerage	19
Building Materials	304
Contractor Payment	2,967
Fire Risk Assessment	280
Signage	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,835</b>

## Office Move

**Expend. to  
30.9.16**

Auction Refund	30
Building Maint. & Materials	1,129
Catering Expenses	3
Legal Fees	712
IT Support	280
Mail Transfer	425
Removals	813
Skip Hire	286
Staff Relocation	219
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,897</b>

## Neighbourhood Plan

**Expend. to  
30.9.16**

Consultant's Fee	2,250
Staff Overtime	123
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,373</b>

**2016/17 FINANCIAL REPORT TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**Changes to Projections**

**Expenditure**

Bank Charges	Increase £190	New category due to problems with closing old account and charges on new account
Furniture & Equipment	Decrease £200	Adjustment to current spending level
Legal Fees	Increase £500	Additional invoice expected
Postage	Decrease £90	Adjustment to current Spending level
Cheyne Weares	Decrease £1,000	Recent invoice paid against Landscape Maintenance

**Income**

Interest	Decrease £20	Change from interest-bearing account
Other	Increase £20	Refund on legal fee received



**ELECTION OF DIGNITARIES FOR 2016/17**

Existing policy guidelines are as follows:-

- (a) The seniority list to be made up with Past Mayors' seniority taken from the date of Mayoral Year end
- (b) If several Councillors are eligible with identical seniority, then seniority will be determined in alphabetical order
- (c) The Deputy would proceed to Mayor after one year as Deputy
- (d) Cumulative service counts towards seniority.

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Commencement of Service</b>	<b>Cumulative Service up to 1st May 2016 (Years - Months)</b>	<b>Years of Service for Mayoral Purposes</b>
S West	7 May 2015*	10-9	4-11
R Nowak	18 November 2015*	2-11	2-11
S Reynolds	14 August 2013	2-8	2-8
D Symes	7 May 2015*	2-1	2-1
J Draper	7 May 2015*	3-11	1-10
S Lees	14 August 2014	1-8	1-8
J Atwell	7 May 2015	0-11	0-11
S Cocking	7 May 2015	0-11	0-11
C Flack	7 May 2015	0-11	0-11
C Gover	7 May 2015	0-11	0-11
D Thurston	7 May 2015*	7-6	0-11
A Sergison	18 November 2015	0-5	0-5
R Wild	6 May 2011	4-11	0-0

\* not including previous period of service

March 2016, amended October 2016

## **FINANCE & STAFFING WORKING GROUP**

Mr Andy Matthews has withdrawn as a non-council member of the Group following advice regarding the Local Government Act 1972 s.102(3). See also Standing Order 4(b).

The membership of the Group is currently as follows:-

Cllr. Cocking	Chairman
Cllr. Flack	Deputy Chairman
Cllr. Nowak	
Cllr. West	Mayor (ex officio)
Vacancy	Deputy Mayor (ex officio)
Cllr. Gover	Staffing matters only
Cllr. Sergison	Staffing matters only

Only the first three normally attend Finance meetings, currently held in the daytime. It is suggested further members be appointed.

## **EVENTS & TOURISM WORKING GROUP**

The membership of the Group is currently as follows:-

Cllr. Atwell  
Cllr. Lees  
Cllr. Sergison  
Mayor (ex officio)  
Deputy Mayor (ex officio)

Cllr. Symes was appointed as Chairman of the Group at the last meeting, but his membership ceases with his resignation as Deputy Mayor. He has indicated his willingness to continue as a member of the Group.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN DORSET**

### **Meeting to Consider Corporate Response to Consultation**

Held Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Those attending: Cllrs Atwell, Cocking, Draper, Flack, Lees, Nowak, Reynolds, Symes, Thurston and Wild

**General discussion on each point, majority view taken per question.**

To what extent do you agree or disagree that Dorset's councils should focus on cutting out duplication and reducing administration costs wherever possible?

**Tend to agree**

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to replace the nine councils with two new councils in order to protect services as far as possible?

**Neither agree nor disagree**

Please rate how important you think each of these criteria are using a whole number between 0 and 10, 10 means high

**Each heading was rated as 10 – Accountability, Quality, Local Identity, Access, Value for Money**

If two councils were created, to what extent do you support or oppose each of the possible options being considered?

**Small Dorset Option 2a** (North Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland) **Strongly oppose**

**Medium Dorset 2b** ( East Dorset, North Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland ) **Tend to oppose**

**Large Dorset 2c** (Christchurch, East Dorset, North Dorset, Purbeck, West Dorset, Weymouth &Portland) **Strongly support**

Do you have any further comments?

**A united one Dorset has not been presented as an option.**

**The initial question was, should we be looking at cutting out duplication?**

**Currently there are nine councils. The proposal is to go down to two, but this still creates duplication, so why not just one?**

**Other counties like Cornwall have gone for one council.**

**A united single Dorset council would be best to work with Dorset LEP, which covers all of Dorset. Dorset councils have just agreed to set up a 'Combined Authority'. If there was just one Dorset council there would be no need for yet another administrative and levy-powered organisation.**

**With any of the options we have concerns about local identity being lost in the future decision-making process. We note there is no reference in the questionnaire about the future involvement of parish and town councils.**

Cllr Ray Nowak  
[Edited]

## **MAYOR'S PLAQUE**

The Island of Portland Heritage Trust has agreed to accept the existing stone plaque provided the Town Council bears the costs involved in transporting from Albion Stone and installing. The Trust members suggest it be set on the outside wall underneath the colonnade across the front of Girt Hall.