

## PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices  
Fortuneswell  
Portland  
DT5 1LW

E-mail: [office@portlandtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@portlandtowncouncil.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01305 821638

30<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend an **ADDITIONAL MEETING** of **PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**. It will be held in **EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL, EASTON, PORTLAND**, on **WEDNESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 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.

Yours faithfully

Ian Looker  
Town Clerk

## A G E N D A

1. **Prayers**
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Declarations of Interest** – to receive from Councillors or Officers any declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests regarding matters to be considered at this meeting, together with a statement of the nature of those interests
4. **Public Participation** – to hear and consider comments and questions from members of the public for up to three minutes each for each speaker. These should refer to agenda items only.
5. **Council Offices** – to give further consideration to accommodation for the Council (see attached)
6. **External Funding Support** – to consider the legality of Council's decision to appoint a consultant at its meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015 (see attached)
7. **Budget and Precept, 2016/17** – to consider changes in the light of decisions made on the above two items (see agenda papers, Town Council meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015, Agenda Item 16)
8. **Exclusion of Press and 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.”
9. **Date of Next Meeting**  
The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016, starting at 7.00 pm.

## COUNCIL OFFICES

To recapitulate, following an offer from the Borough Council the Town Council made the following decision at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015:-

**RESOLVED** – that the Council thank Weymouth & Portland Borough Council for its offer of the Council Offices, but after due consideration has decided to decline it.

Then at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015 the Council agreed as follows:-

**RESOLVED** – that representative of the two Councils meet to discuss options for purchase of the building subsequent to refusal of the first offer. If purchase of the building is not appropriate, the Borough should state what it proposes to do about accommodating the Town Council.

Cllrs. Nowak, Wild and Gover have written under Standing Order 7(a) requesting a motion to rescind the decision of 15<sup>th</sup> July.

These members also present the following motion for consideration:-

“At the recent informal meeting of representatives of Portland Town Council and officers of Weymouth & Portland Borough Council the latter’s officers confirmed that the Borough had taken the decision to sell the Portland office and that notice to vacate would be issued shortly. This Council should attempt to secure accommodation either by renegotiating the offer from the Borough, but at terms that are acceptable to the Town Council, or seeking a figure that the Borough might be prepared to offer the Council to vacate. This money could be ring-fenced for future office facilities for the Town Council.”

## EXTERNAL FUNDING SUPPORT

This item has been included at the request of Cllrs. Chadwick, Lees and Nowak. They contend that Council's decision contravenes Financial Regulations 10.3, which states:-

"All members and officers are responsible for obtaining value for money at all times. An officer issuing an official order is to ensure as far as reasonable and practicable that the best available terms are obtained in respect of each transaction, usually by obtaining three or more quotations or estimates from appropriate suppliers, subject to any de minimis provisions in Regulation 11(1) below."

Regulation 11.1 begins as follows:-

11.1 Procedures as to the contracts are laid down as follows:-

(a) Every contract shall comply with these financial regulations, and no exceptions shall be made otherwise than in emergency provided that these regulations shall not apply to contracts which relate to items (i) to (vi) below.

- (i) for the supply of gas, electricity, water, sewerage and telephone services,
- (ii) for specialists services such as are provided by solicitors, accountants, surveyors and planning consultants

(Continued...)

It seems therefore that the main issue is whether the consultancy service offered is of a specialist nature or it can be delivered also by similar providers within the locality.

Cllr. Chadwick has suggested a couple of possible providers, which I shall try to follow up on prior to the meeting.