

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18TH APRIL 2012, COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillors I. Munro-Price (Chair), Mrs S. Bradley, Miss A. Munro, T. Munro, D. Symes, Mrs S. West, R. Wild and T. Woodcock.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk) and Rev Chris Briggs (Mayor's Chaplain.)

2085 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

2086 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors L. Ames, Mrs J. Collinge, R. Denton-White, R. Hughes, Mrs P. McCartney and Mrs E. Munro-Price.

2087 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this point. See also minute 2092.

2088 – OPEN FORUM

a) Public Half-Hour

b) Police Question Time

No issues were raised.

2089 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14TH MARCH 2012

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

2090 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

Minute 2066(b) – Civic Expenditure

Cllr. Tim Munro asked what had happened since the last Council meeting regarding a meeting of the Events Working Group. The Clerk replied that to his knowledge no further action had been taken. A meeting of the Group was arranged for Monday, 23rd April.

Cllr. Tim Munro also criticised the use of the term "Mayor-designate" in the Clerk's report and said "Deputy Mayor" should have been used instead.

2091 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The St. John Ambulance had written requesting financial assistance with the purchase of a fibrillator. It was agreed that no action be taken.

HMS Portland will have a new Captain in May.

The Post Office had advised that a new post office will be opening in Easton. Public consultation on this closes on 26th April.

2092 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR

Portland United (Youth) Football Club had written, expressing their concerns about the recent relaunch of Galaxy F.C. as Portland Town F.C. Cllr. Symes declared a personal interest. The relaunch had involved publicity photographs with the Mayor, which had been juxtaposed with some unsavoury material on the Portland Town club website.

After some discussion it was agreed that the Council should write to Portland United, saying that the Town Council supports sporting activities of all kinds on the Island. In the past it had supported the club with a grant and would be happy to give it public support if approached.

2093 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

The Clerk requested the Council's permission to stockpile further supplies of postage stamps, which was granted.

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2710 – 2724) in the sum of £3,247.34 including VAT be authorised for payment.

b) 2011/2012 Financial Report to 31st March 2012

The report showed a provisional deficit of £1,941 for the financial year. Cllr. Tim Munro requested that a report on the Council's financial reserves be presented at the next Council meeting.

RESOLVED – that the financial report be accepted.

2094 – UPHAM WATERCOLOURS

Cllrs. Ian Munro-Price and Tim Munro queried the report that the Borough had decided to present the watercolours as a gift to Portland Museum. They thought that conditions had been attached to the gift.

It was proposed by Cllr. Woodcock and **RESOLVED** – that the Town Council also present its own Upham watercolour to Portland Museum as a gift, requesting that in return the Museum should restore all the prints and provide the Town with framed reproductions of all eighteen, including colour-enhanced copies of the fourteen original watercolours.

2095 – COUNCIL OFFICES: MAINTENANCE AND FUTURE PROVISION

Bearing in mind the letters received from Borough officials members agreed to take no action for the time being, but to await further developments.

Regarding the flagpole on the roof of the Offices, members agreed that Wayne Day be asked to paint it with the Council paying the cost of materials.

2096 – IT IMPROVEMENTS/PROVISION OF INTERNET SERVICES

The Clerk supplemented his written report by referring to the difficulties he had experienced with BT in trying to order the switch to superfast broadband.

2097 – POSSIBLE BREACH OF STANDING ORDERS

Cllr. Woodcock argued that members had debated the matter at the last Council meeting and made a decision. Therefore if Council took a further vote this itself would be a breach of SO 36.

Cllr. Tim Munro said that he had requested a wider debate on breaching Standing Orders, but this had not been provided. Regarding suggestions that some Councillors had been misled in the discussion on the budget at the January meeting he asserted that it had been a valid debate with various arguments presented and a decision reached. It was up to all members to keep abreast of what was happening in local government.

Cllr. Woodcock moved to proceed to the next business and this motion was **CARRIED**.

2098 – NEW POSTAL CHARGES

The Assistant Clerk's report comparing providers of franking metered was presented.

Cllr. Woodcock proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the Council continue with the existing system and review the situation again in the future.

2099 – MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE REVIEW

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that the matter be delayed until after the impending meeting with Tracy Long of the County Library Service had taken place.

2100 – PORTLAND PORT ACCESS

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price, commenting on the letter received from the Port, said he understood the need for visitors to have made an appointment and thought there was no intention to single out members of the Council. It was agreed to make no further response.

2101 – REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Tim Munro said the cost of a survey of the harbour in Weymouth would be £150,000 and would occupy twenty-two weeks. The actual repair work would take a further twenty-nine weeks, so it was intended that Condor ferry services would return in twelve months. Cllr. Ian Munro-Price added that Condor preferred to operate from Weymouth rather than Poole.

Cllr. Tim Munro also stated that the new tower was open at Weymouth and the Borough had agreed a new set of corporate priorities.

2102 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

Commenting on his report about Portland Seafarers Support, Cllr. Wild said they were looking at the possibility of using a room at the Port currently unoccupied and he wondered whether the Council might loan some of its spare furniture.

Cllr. Tim Munro responded that the Town Council's furniture was actually the property of the Borough. However other furniture would be coming available as a result of the recent staffing reorganisation and relocation.

2103 – FORWARD PLAN

Discussion on Library Services in May or later was added. Financial training for members was also added without setting a date. An item on matters arising from the Annual Town Meeting was requested for May. Cllr. Tim Munro queried the need for Portland Academy to remain in the Forward Plan now that it had received the formal go-ahead.

2104 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meetings of the Council are due to take place on Wednesday, 9th May 2012 (Mayor-Making) and 16th May 2012 (Adjourned Meeting), both commencing at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

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