

## **PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2010, COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillors D. Thurston (Chair), L. Ames, N. Charlton, Mrs J. Collinge, R. Denton-White, G. Duncan, M. Gosling, T. Munro, Mrs E. Munro-Price, I. Munro-Price and Mrs S. West.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. Chris Briggs (Mayor's Chaplain) and one member of the general public.

#### **1776 – PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

#### **1777 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs S. Bradley and R. Hughes.

#### **1778 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **1779 – OPEN FORUM**

##### **a) Public Half-Hour**

Mr Luther enquired concerning public footpath 34 at the rear of the development near Pennsylvania Castle. A notice had been posted saying this footpath had been expunged. There was no noticeable change in circumstances, so why was the footpath not open? Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price agreed to investigate.

##### **b) Police Question Time**

(There were no members of the police present.)

Cllr. West drew attention to the increasing amount of graffiti in various Island location, including upon the Council's newly installed stone bench. Should the police be more vigilant, she wondered?

The Chair invited Cllr. Charlton to speak about a recent community meeting. Complaints about anti-social behaviour were voiced with criticism of the police's perceived lack of action. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Thurston should contact Mr Ian Beckett, the new chairman of PACT, to arrange a way forward.

#### **1780 – MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010**

Cllr. Collinge said that the first resolution of minute 1772 should have included a fifth element, that the Council pay the cost of materials for the Town Crier's uniform. With this amendment the minutes of the meeting were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

## **1781 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING**

### **a) Minute 1762(b), para 2 – Arson in Weston Road**

Cllr. Ames asked whether there had been any developments. Cllr. Thurston understood that the perpetrators had been dealt with.

### **b) Minute 1762(b) para 3 – Stabbing in Fortuneswell**

Cllr. Collinge reported that someone had been charged.

## **1782 – TOWN MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr. Thurston expressed his thanks for all those involved in producing the Ceremony of the Keys. He also mentioned an invitation from the governor of the Verne to members of the Council to visit the prison in August.

Turning to the proposed Portland Academy Cllr. Thurston said that although the Government had apparently shelved the scheme, Prof. Stephen Heppell and others were still working towards bringing it to fruition.

## **1783 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR**

There were none.

## **1784 – 2012, MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP, 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010**

### **a) Minute 712 – 2012 Olympics, Provision of Toilets**

**RESOLVED** – that nominated Councillors carry out a survey of public toilets on the Island over the next few months to see what improvements needed to be done and report their findings to the Town Council.

It was suggested that when the report had been approved a copy be sent to the Borough Council and its Waste and Recycling Manager be invited to speak to the Town Council.

### **b) Minute 713 – Rights of Way Liaison Officer**

**RESOLVED** – that Mrs Sue Lees be appointed as a second deputy liaison officer.

Following a proposal from Cllr. Munro, it was **RESOLVED** – that Mr Simon Gledhill also be invited to serve as a deputy liaison officer.

## **1785 – AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS**

From the Chair Cllr. Thurston proposed the motion concerning SO 33 stated on the agenda paper.

Cllr. Munro proposed an amendment that in paragraph (b) the words “in such a manner as to scandalise” be altered to read “in such a manner as may scandalise.”

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

The substantive motion was then put.

**RESOLVED** – that in paragraph (b) the word “to” be replaced by “may,” as indicated above, and in paragraph (c) the words “paragraph (a)” be altered to read “paragraph (b).” Thus Standing Order 33 now reads as follows:-

### DISORDERLY CONDUCT

- a) **All Councillors must observe the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2002, a copy of which is annexed to these Standing Orders.**
- b) **No Councillor shall, at a meeting, persistently disregard the ruling of the Town Mayor, wilfully obstruct business, or behave irregularly, offensively, improperly or in such a manner as may scandalise the Council or bring it into contempt or ridicule.**
- c) **If, in the opinion of the Town Mayor, a Councillor has broken the provisions of paragraph (b) of this Order, the Town Mayor shall express that opinion to the Council and thereafter any Councillor may move that the Councillor named be no longer heard or that the member named do leave the meeting, and the motion, if seconded, shall be put forthwith and without discussion. If a Councillor reasonably believes another Councillor is in breach of the Code of Conduct, that Councillor is under a duty to report the breach to the Standards Board for England.**
- d) **If the motion mentioned in paragraph (c) is disobeyed, the Town Mayor may adjourn the meeting or take such further steps as may reasonably be necessary to enforce it.**

(Note – In the course of the debate the Clerk expressed the opinion that the amendment to the motion should not be taken, as that would be contrary to SO 73, by which any alteration to Standing Orders has to be given the space of a meeting’s notice. In this case however the Chair admitted the amendment. Subsequent to the meeting the Monitoring Officer confirmed that the Clerk was technically correct in his interpretation. Therefore the admittance of an amendment, as on this occasion, should not be seen as the rule nor as a precedent.)

### **1786 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

#### **a) Payments for Authorisation**

**RESOLVED** – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2408 – 2423) in the sum of £3,521.16 including VAT be authorised for payment.

#### **b) 2010/11 Budget Report to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

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

#### **c) Deployment of Council Funds**

It was agreed that this item be deferred until the next meeting.

**1787 – FINANCE & PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price, Chair of the Committee, requested that the Committee be given delegated powers to discuss any budget matters for which there was an allocation of money in the budget.

**1788 – ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**RESOLVED** – that Agenda Items 13 – Portland Town Flag and 16 – Franking Machine be deferred to the next meeting of the Finance & Projects Committee.

**1789 – TOWN LENGTHSMAN**

**RESOLVED** – that a Working Group be appointed, consisting of Cllrs. Ames, Hughes, Munro, Paisley and Thurston.

**1790 – COUNCIL GRANTS, 2010/11**

**RESOLVED** – that representatives of the organisations bidding for grants be requested to make presentations at the next meeting of the Finance & Projects Committee, which will decide the allocation of the grants.

**1791 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS**

There were no reports.

**1792 – TOWN CRIER WORKING GROUP**

It was agreed the Working Group would meet on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm.

**1793 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2010 commencing at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 9.35pm.

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