

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18TH JULY AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs S. Bradley (Mayor), L. Ames, Mrs J. Collinge, R. Denton-White, Miss A. Munro, T. Munro, Mrs E. Munro-Price, I. Munro-Price and R. Wild.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. T. Gomm (Mayor's Chaplain), and approximately twenty members of the public.

2157 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

2158 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. Mrs S. West.

2159 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

2160 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

Cllr. Denton-White requested that the agenda items concerning the Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan be taken before Financial Matters. This was **RESOLVED**.

Cllr. Tim Munro requested that the Local Plan agenda item be taken before Neighbourhood Plan, as the original agenda order. This was **RESOLVED**.

2161 – OPEN FORUM

a) Public Half-Hour

Mr Andy Matthews spoke concerning the Local and Neighbourhood Plans, stressing Portland Community Partnership's heavy involvement already. He suggested the Council employ greater use of information boards around the Island and offered to provide a report on this, which was accepted.

Mr Rhys Tanner commented about the Council's website, that it needed updating. He suggested that the Council make use of the social media i.e. Facebook and Twitter.

Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that an agenda item on the subject be brought to the Council soon.

Miss Honor Wilson-Fletcher, Chief Executive of the Aldridge Foundation, spoke briefly concerning the proposed Academy school at Southwell. She acknowledged a need for improved communications with the general public on the Island. Miss Wilson-Fletcher also expressed regret that an incomplete and inaccurate travel plan for the school had been leaked into the public domain. She went on to describe in outline the benefits the Academy would bring.

Commenting on the proposed Academy, a lady said she had concerns about transport and location issues. She also criticised the lack of consultation and information provided, for example about uniforms.

Another lady contrasted the central location of Royal Manor School with that of Southwell and asked why it was not possible to redevelop at the former site.

Cllr. Tim Munro assured hearers that County Councillors would be involved in any decisions regarding transport to the Academy and change of use.

Mr Rob Tocher said he had had a meeting the previous day with Mrs Appleyard, the Academy principal. He had received assurances on some points, but differences of opinion remained on others.

b) Police Question Time

No members of the Police were in attendance.

2162 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20TH JUNE 2012

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

2163 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

a) Minute 2142(a) – Portland Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Tim Munro complained that the resolution under the minute had been excluded from the current meeting agenda, thereby invalidating the Neighbourhood Plan agenda item that had been posted.

The Clerk replied that he had received a motion about the Neighbourhood Plan from Cllr. Denton-White, which he had duly put on the agenda. He could not see how the agenda item as it stood ran counter to the Council's previous resolution.

b) Minute 2146 – Town Council Responsibilities

Replying to a question from Cllr. Denton-White, the Clerk said the Borough Chief Executive had acknowledged the Council's letter and passed it to his Deputy to action.

c) Minute 2151 – Pensions: Employer Discretions

Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price pointed out that none of the three Working Groups recently appointed for pensions, events and grants had yet held a meeting. Cllr. Bradley detailed the circumstances behind this.

d) Minute 2153 – Forward Plan: Tourism Brief

Cllr. Tim Munro asked whether the draft tourism brief had been prepared. Cllr. Denton-White said he hoped to have it ready for the September Council meeting.

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price commented on the number of high-profile media events taking place on the Island during the course of the Games and asked what was being done to raise the Council's profile at these events. Cllr. Denton-White replied that for his part he had not received any invitations to attend.

2164 – TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that she had received the resignations of Cllrs. David Symes and Penny McCartney. Responding to a question she said that in Cllr. Symes’ case there had been a perceived clash of interests with his new employment.

Cllr. Tim Munro proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the Council write a letter of thanks to both individuals.

2165 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR

There were none.

2166 – WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND LOCAL PLAN

The Chair allowed Mr Andy Matthews to speak. He said that it was disappointing that a special meeting had not been set aside to discuss the Local Plan, as Bridport and Dorchester Town Councils had done. Mr Matthews highlighted transport and employment sites as areas of particular concern.

Cllr. Wild commented that individuals could still submit their views even if the Town Council chose not to provide a corporate response.

2167 – PROPOSED PORTLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr. Denton-White saw a Neighbourhood Plan as a means of involving Portland inhabitants in shaping the future of the Island, particularly for youth and business issues. Taking into account Cllr. Tim Munro’s earlier comments (see minute 2163[a]), he proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the matter be brought to full Council again in August.

2168 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2755 – 2763) in the sum of £2,540.15 including VAT be authorised for payment.

b) 2012/13 Financial Report to 30th June 2012

Cllr. Tim Munro wished to raise four queries. The first was why the projected expenditure had risen above the budgeted figure. The Clerk replied that the budget had not allowed for a salary increment to a member of staff nor the approved overtime being worked while a member of staff had been ill recently.

Cllr. Munro’s second query concerned the projected expenditure on elections, which seemed a figure scarcely likely to occur. The Clerk explained that it was a compromise amount. It was difficult to predict the occurrence of any single election. There had been two in the past six years, but if only one election took place in a financial year the cost to the Council would be significant. His projected figure therefore was roughly half-way between the cost of no election and that of holding one, in order to reduce the possible margin of error.

Cllr. Denton-White moved to proceed to the next business and this was **RESOLVED**.

c) Account Reconciliations

Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the Clerk carry out a bank account reconciliation every month and report it to the Council.

2169 – WESTON ROAD PLAYING FIELD

The reply received from the County Council was noted.

2170 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price proposed that the item on the Portland Aldridge Academy be taken next. This was agreed.

2171 – PORTLAND ALDRIDGE ACADEMY

Cllr. Tim Munro proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the concerns expressed earlier at the meeting be noted and considered at a later date.

2172 – IT DEVELOPMENTS

The Clerk reported the difficulty that had arisen in printing documents from the new computer. Cllr. Ian Munro-Price thought he could provide a solution to the problem at little or no cost. Cllr. Denton-White proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Munro-Price's offer to help solve the printing problem be accepted.

2173 – STAFF MILEAGE RATES

Cllr. Denton-White proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the staff mileage rate be raised from 40p to 45p per mile.

2174 – RISK ASSESSMENT

Considering the risk assessment carried out and printed in full for members, Cllr. Tim Munro questioned the need for a risk assessment on car parks. The Clerk said the Council was responsible for Cheyne Weares viewing area, where members of the public parked their cars. Cllr. Munro also wondered why the assessment mentioned the control, "Empty all machines daily," when Cheyne Weares had no ticket machines for parking. The Clerk replied that the risks report provided by the risk software program was designed to cover all likelihoods, which would include councils that did employ ticket machines. In this instance the risk score had been agreed as "1," the lowest possible figure for risks.

(In the course of the discussion Cllrs. Elspie Munro-Price, Amanda Munro, Tim Munro and Ian Munro-Price all left the meeting at 9.00 pm.)

Cllr. Wild proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the assessment under review be accepted as the Council's risk assessment for 2012/13 and those individual items rated as significant risks be brought back to Council for further consideration.

2175 – STAFF APPRAISALS

Cllr. Wild proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the Clerk carry out annually appraisals of the other members of staff.

Cllr. Denton-White proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the Clerk be appraised by a Personnel Group consisting of three members, the Mayor Cllr. Bradley, the Deputy Mayor Cllr. Ames and Cllr. Wild.

2176 – AUGUST MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr. Wild proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the August meeting be a streamlined one, consisting only of items concerning payments for authorisation and Portland Neighbourhood Plan.

It was also agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan agenda paper describing the Planning Aid seminar in June be included with the agenda again.

2177 – REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Borough Cllr. Ray Nowak, who introduced himself as housing briefholder for the Borough, expressed concern that the Local Plan had reduced the stipulation for affordable new housing to 10% and urged people to make their views known on the Plan.

Cllr. Ames referred to the apparent unfairness in the allocation of public housing. Cllr. Nowak spoke of the “convoluted systems” involved and recommended that folk feeling aggrieved by the process should speak to their local councillors.

2178 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

Cllr. Wild spoke to his report on the latest DAPTC meeting.

2179 – COUNCIL GRANTS, 2012/13

Cllr. Denton-White proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the existing conditions and application form be adopted for the current year.

2180 – OLYMPIC MEDALLIONS

Cllr. Bradley reported on the current situation, giving details of the quotation received and sponsorship promised. Concerns were expressed at the size of the shortfall that might have to be met from Council funds.

Cllr. Denton-White proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that an advertisement be drawn up for the next edition of the Free Portland News, explaining the situation and offering people the opportunity to choose whether or not to proceed with the scheme.

2181 – FINANCIAL MATTERS (continued)

d) Account Reconciliations (continued)

Cllr. Ames requested and was allowed to bring the item up for further discussion, because the element involving the petty cash account had not been discussed earlier.

The Clerk provided further details regarding the account and Cllr. Ames wished to make it clear that no element of blame was being levelled at the Clerk.

Cllr. Denton-White proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that a sum of £20.62 be transferred to the petty cash account.

2182 – FORWARD PLAN

No issues were raised.

2183 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is due to take place on Wednesday 15th August 2012, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 10.20 pm.

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