

## PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2011, COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM

**PRESENT:** Councillors D. Thurston (Chair), Mrs S. Bradley, N. Charlton, Mrs J. Collinge, R. Denton-White, M. Gosling, R. Hughes, Mrs Elspie Munro-Price and I. Munro-Price.

Councillor Ames arrived at 7.30 pm, but failed to gain admission to the building until the meeting had ended.

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

#### **1855 – PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

#### **1856 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors L. Ames (for the first part of the meeting), T. Munro, R. Paisley and Mrs S. West.

#### **1857 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **1858 – OPEN FORUM**

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

No members of the public were present at that time.

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

No representative of the police was on hand to answer questions. Cllr. Collinge pointed out that the police were due to hold a public meeting in Easton the following evening. The Clerk was asked to write again to the police to encourage their attendance.

#### **1859 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY AND 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2011**

##### **a) Meeting, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

##### **Minute 1857 – Order of Business**

Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price requested two amendments, which were disputed by the Clerk.

**RESOLVED** – that in the first paragraph the words “in his opinion” be inserted after “He agreed that” and that in the third paragraph the words “Cllr. Ames appeared to concur “be amended to read “Cllr. Ames concurred.”

With these two changes the minutes of the meeting were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

**b) Special Meeting, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

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

**1860 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING**

**a) Meeting, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

**Minute 1837 – Order of Business**

Cllr. Denton-White enquired whether there had been an investigation into inquorate committee meetings and pre-determination. The Clerk replied that the result had been included in his report to the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

**b) Special Meeting, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

**Minute 1853 – Council Budget and Precept, 2011/12**

Cllr. Charlton queried the changes that had occurred in the salaries budget in the process of reaching the final figures. The Clerk itemised the sequence as (1) an inflation-based draft estimate, (2) the figure agreed at the Finance & Projects Committee, (3) the figure agreed the Town Council on 19<sup>th</sup> January and (4) the final figure agreed on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

**1860 – ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Cllr. Denton-White requested the Public Half-Hour be reprised in order that a lately-arrived member of the public might speak. This was agreed.

**1861 – PUBLIC HALF-HOUR (reprised)**

Mr Mathew Burnett requested the Council's help in creating a bee sanctuary on the Island. When disease was threatening bee colonies, the Island's remoteness offered protection against cross-contamination. Mr Burnett was seeking the use of Council land for his project rather than money. Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price suggested he make a presentation to the next meeting of the Finance & Projects Committee.

**1862 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr. Thurston reported that the County Council's grant for a lengthsman had been returned. Meanwhile he had met with representatives of the Borough and County. The County were willing to make the 2010/11 money available if the scheme were resurrected. It was also agreed the Borough would provide monthly reports on work carried out on the Island by their own lengthsman.

The Mayor also recounted a recent meeting to help arrange a visit by HMS Portland. The visit would start with the ship's arrival in port on 29<sup>th</sup> April, a reception on the 30<sup>th</sup>, a freedom of the Island march on 1<sup>st</sup> May, ending with a further reception at the Heights Hotel and the ship open to the public on the following day.

Cllr. Thurston gave notice of a visit by Princess Anne to open the St. John's Ambulance Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> March, a Library Service consultation on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and a concert by the Lithuanian Youth Orchestra at All Saints on 7<sup>th</sup> April.

### **1863 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR**

Cllr. Thurston said he, as the rest of the Council, had received a letter regarding the proposed Southwell heliport from Mr & Mrs Deeney, and an official response had been drafted.

### **1864 – TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR, 2011/12**

Cllr. Collinge asked for a recorded vote in the choice of both offices.

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price was proposed for Mayor by Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price and seconded by Cllr. Hughes.

**RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Ian Munro-Price be Town Mayor-elect for 2011/12.  
For: Cllrs. Charlton, Hughes, Elspie Munro-Price and Ian Munro-Price,  
Against: None, Abstentions: Cllrs. Bradley, Collinge, Denton-White, Gosling and Thurston.

Cllr. Bradley was proposed for Deputy Mayor by Cllr. Denton-White and seconded by Cllr. Collinge. Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price was proposed by Cllr. Ian Munro-Price and seconded by Cllr. Charlton.

**RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Bradley be Deputy Town Mayor-elect for 2011/12.  
For: Cllr Bradley: Cllrs. Bradley, Collinge, Denton-White, Gosling, Hughes and Thurston, For: Cllrs Elspie Munro-Price: Cllrs. Charlton, Elspie Munro-Price and Ian Munro-Price, Abstentions: None.

### **1865 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

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

Cllr. Charlton suggested that the administration search the Dorset Echo on its website rather than paying the cost of a newspaper each day. It was agreed that this be discussed further at the next Finance & Projects Committee meeting.

**RESOLVED** - that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2522 – 2536) in the sum of £2,567.46 including VAT be authorised for payment.

#### **b) 2010/2011 Financial Report to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

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

#### **c) Internal Audit, 2010/11**

**RESOLVED** – that the internal auditor's initial report and the Clerk's responses be accepted.

### **1866 – MAY 2011 DIARY DATES**

**RESOLVED** – that the Mayor's recommendations be accepted that the dates for meetings in 2011 be amended as follows:-

- Annual Town Council Meeting (Mayor-Making) – Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May
- Adjourned Town Council Meeting – Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> May
- Planning & Highways Advisory Committee – Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> May

**1867 – PORTLAND FAIR**

Cllr. Thurston reported that he, Cllr. Ian Munro-Price and the Clerk had met with the Fair operators, mainly to discuss the Spring Fair. After some haggling it had been agreed the Wynns would pay the Council the sum of £750 for operating this year’s Spring Fair.

**1868 – FLAG FLYING**

Cllr. Thurston confirmed Mr Tansy Lee’s retirement from his voluntary post of hoisting and lowering flags above the Council Offices and that the role would be taken over by Mr Wayne Day. It was agreed to discuss a suitable present for Mr Lee at the next Finance & Projects Committee meeting.

**1869 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS**

Members had no comment to make on the items received from DorBAG.

**1870 – EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

**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 the following item, Agenda Item 13, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.”

**1871 – WORKING HOURS OF CLERK AND ASSISTANT CLERK**

Cllr. Elspie Munro-Price said it was important to link this issue with that of the administrative accommodation. It was agreed that the Personnel Working Group (currently Cllrs. Thurston, Charlton, Elspie and Ian Munro-Price) should meet to agree some recommendations concerning working hours, consult with staff and then bring the agreed draft to Finance & Projects Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

**1877 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meetings of the Council are due to take place on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2011 (Annual Town Meeting – Mayor-Making) and 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011 (Adjourned Town Council Meeting) commencing at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 7.30pm.

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