

**PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs S. Bradley (Mayor), L. Ames, R. Denton-White, R. Hughes, Miss A. Munro, Mrs S. West and R. Wild.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Reverend Tim Gomm and three members of the public.

**2191 – PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

**2192 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Mrs J. Collinge, T. Munro, Mrs E. Munro-Price and I. Munro-Price.

**2193 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**2194 – OPEN FORM**

**a) Public Half-Hour**

There were no questions or comments from the public.

**b) Police Question Time**

No representative of Dorset Police was present. The Clerk was asked to write to them to clarify the situation on their lack of attendance.

Mr Andy Matthews of Portland Community Partnership wondered whether a special joint meeting of the Council and Partnership might be held to hear and question the candidates for the Dorset Police Commissioner.

**2195 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**a) Meeting Held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

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

**b) Meeting Held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

**(i) Minute 2187 – Motion Moved Without Notice**

The Clerk requested the deletion of the minute on the grounds that the resolution on Public Half-Hours had stemmed from a motion moved without notice, contrary to Standing Orders. This was **RESOLVED**.

**(ii) Minute 2189 – Proposed Portland Neighbourhood Plan**

The Clerk also drew members' attention to a technical breach of Standing Orders by the resolutions made under this minute. This was noted, but members felt on this occasion that it was better to allow the spirit of the law to prevail rather than the letter.

With the amendment made above the minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

#### **2196 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING**

**a) Meeting Held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

**b) Meeting Held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

There were no matters arising from either.

#### **2197 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Slightly tongue in cheek, the Mayor announced that J.K. Rowling's new book, "The Casual Vacancy," was due to be published later in the month and concerned events relating to a small town council.

#### **2198 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR**

None had been received.

#### **2199 – PORTLAND FAIR**

**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 stated item, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**RESOLVED** – that the Council charge the fair operator £3,264 plus an inflation increase of £104 (£3,368) for five days of operation of the Portland (autumn) Fair, the operator not to increase his prices to the public from last year's.

This offer was accepted by the fair operator.

#### **2200 – PLANNING & HIGHWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2012**

**a) Minute 1992 – Dry Stone Walls**

**RESOLVED** – that (1) the Clerk write to the Borough Planning Policy Section regarding ENV 11 in the Local Plan so that the substance of the draft Town Council Policy and accompanying Preamble is incorporated i.e. about the importance of Portland stone walls, particularly dry stone, to the character and environment of the Island, (ii) that the Planning Officer would check to see that dry stone walls were highlighted in the Landscape Character Assessment as an important part of the Island's character and (iii) that this policy should be included in the Portland Neighbourhood Plan, if the Town Council decide to proceed with it.

**b) Minute 1994 – Roundabout Sponsorship**

**RESOLVED** – that roundabouts 100 and 101 be designated as Hamm Roundabout and Coode Roundabout.

#### **2201 – 2012, MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2012**

**a) Minute 874 – Grit Bins**

**RESOLVED** – that the Council buy a new grit bin to be located on Old Hill.

**b) Minute 875 – County Minerals Core Strategy**

**RESOLVED –**

- i) that the Minerals Core Strategy should take note of the Portland Neighbourhood Plan
- ii) that subject to the above provision, the Council give general support to the Draft in relation to Portland stone extraction
- iii) that the use of mining for future stone extraction be welcomed
- iv) that concern is expressed that mining in areas so recommended in preference to opencast quarrying cannot be enforced
- v) that the requirement to backfill mine voids should be reviewed at or near completion project. Redundant mines may have tourism or storage potential.
- vi) that in cases of exhausted opencast quarries, those with the responsibility seek to maximise their educational and cultural potential.

**2202 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**a) Payments for Authorisation**

**RESOLVED** – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2775 – 2783) in the sum of £2,161.34 including VAT be authorised for payment.

**b) 202/13 Financial Report to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012**

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

**c) Appointment of External Auditor**

The contents of the Clerk's report were noted.

**d) Bank Signatory**

**RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Wild become an additional signatory to the account.

**2203 – OLYMPIC MEDALLIONS**

The results of the public survey, though small, showed a large majority in favour of purchasing medallions. However some members expressed concern at the Council bearing the greater part of the cost, which the Clerk estimated at over £6,000.

**RESOLVED** – that the Council not proceed with the medallions scheme.

**2204 – COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN**

The Clerk presented his report, stressing the need for the Plan to be kept up to date both on ad hoc and formal basis. The Council agreed to express its thanks to the Assistant Clerk for her efforts in preparing the Plan.

**2205 – NEW CODE OF CONDUCT: REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS**

The Clerk reported that only one completed form related to the new Code had been received.

Cllr. Ames said he had been told that Town Councillors would no longer be able to vote at meetings of the Standards Committee.

**RESOLVED** – that the Clerk investigate the situation and an item be placed on the October Council agenda to discuss it.

## **2206 – COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES**

(Cllrs. Hughes and Amanda Munro left the meeting in the course of the discussion at 8.35pm.)

In particular members considered the list of responsibilities requested by the preliminary Portland Parish Council in 1973.

**RESOLVED** – that the Council seek the following responsibilities from the Borough: allotments, bus shelters (new?), car parking (off-street), open spaces, parks and pleasure grounds, public conveniences and lengthsman.

The Clerk was asked to investigate all the powers concerned, particularly bus shelters and, prior to contacting the Borough, report back in the first instance to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. He was also asked to clarify what was meant by the “[p]ower to contribute to organisations encouraging tourism” and new parish council planning powers enabled by the Localism Act.

The Council also noted that it would want to request the Borough to return ownership of the Town’s Council Offices and such other property commensurate with the powers listed above.

## **2207 – CIVIC EXPENDITURE**

### **a) Budget Allocation**

It was proposed by Cllr. Denton-White and **RESOLVED** – that the civic expenditure budget be increased to £1,500.

### **b) Gardening Competition Prizes**

It was proposed by Cllr. Ames and **RESOLVED** – that the Council pay the cost of engraving the trophies for this year’s gardening competition.

## **2208 – REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Ames reported on a long-standing problem with drains in Wakeham. The Borough and Wessex Water had recently reached agreement on bearing the cost of replacing these drains.

Cllr. West had much praise for the way in which the Games had been conducted and the response from the public. She also commented on mistakes that had been made in the organisation of the Bay-side Festival.

## **2209 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS**

The Clerk presented a written report on a recent clerks’ seminar he had attended, drawing particular attention to employment and health and safety issues that had been discussed.

## **2210 – PORTLAND YOUTH & COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Denton-White be appointed as the Council’s representative with Cllr. Bradley as deputy.

**2211 – FORWARD PLAN**

It was agreed to discuss the tourism brief in October and start to deal with particular risk issues also.

**2212 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm.

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