

## PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 2012, MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs S. Bradley (Chair), Mrs J. Collinge, M. Gosling, D. Thurston and Mrs S. West, together with Philip George (Crown Estate), Charles Frampton and Hannah Sofaer (Portland Stone & Quarry Trust), and Bob Elliott (Quality Time Training).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk)

#### **763 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors R. Denton-White and R. Hughes, together with Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institution).

#### **764 – COUNCILLOR MAURICE GOSLING**

Cllr. Bradley presented with a gift to mark the end of his service on the Town Council.

#### **765 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **766 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2011**

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

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

##### **a) Minute 753 – Provision of Public Conveniences on the Island**

Cllr Collinge commented that it was heartening to hear that the Borough was planning to carry out improvements to various toilets, particularly in time for the Olympics.

##### **b) [Prior Meeting] – Provision of Drill Hall Bus Stop**

The Clerk reported that officers from the County Council would be on the Island the following day and would consider the feasibility of a bus stop.

##### **c) Minute 755 – Grit Bins**

Cllr West said she was in the process of completing a reply about where grit bins might be located.

#### **768 – 2012 OLYMPICS**

Mr Elliott said it now seemed likely that LOCOG would now allow within the Olympic perimeter at Osprey Quay to continue to operate for the duration of the Games, although access would still be denied to members of the general public.

Cllr. West reported on her visit to the 2012 exhibition held at the Sailing Academy. She had been enthused by the “Gamesmakers” aspect to recruit volunteer helpers, though she regretted the possibility that the lack of expenses might deter the less well off from taking part.

Cllr. Collinge referred to the rumour circulating that the houses of the Olympic village were unsuitable because some were too close to the road. The Clerk was asked to investigate LOCOG's view on this.

Cllr. Thurston mentioned that the Borough wanted to arrange meetings to discuss improvements to the Island from the causeway to Easton Square. He also said that the Dowsett Motors site had now been sold and looked forward to improvements there soon.

#### **769 – NATIONAL COASTGUARD CLOSURES**

Cllr. Thurston said that the Borough was working hard to preserve the Coastguard station in Weymouth and therefore it might be a waste of Town Council time to try to do something similar.

#### **770 – PROVISION OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES ON THE ISLAND**

It was thought best to await the outcome of a meeting with the Borough to be held the following week.

#### **771 – GRIT BINS**

The Clerk said that there had been no response from members of the Partnership as to where grit bins might usefully be sited. Cllr. Collinge thought the starting point should be the County's scheme for gritting the Island.

**RESOLVED** – that the Council should obtain a copy of the County gritting scheme and that an article be placed in the Free Portland News asking for the public to submit their suggestions where grit bins might be situated.

(Cllr. Bradley left the meeting at 7.55 pm, thus rendering the meeting technically inquorate. Cllr. Collinge took the chair.)

#### **772 – CHESIL COVE SEA WALL**

The members had no comment to make on the improvements report.

#### **773 – PORTLAND HEIGHTS: DISABLED ACCESS**

**RECOMMENDED** – that the Council submit a formal request to Dorset County Council for satisfactory pedestrian and disabled access to be provided in the area

#### **774 – COASTAL ACCESS: WEYMOUTH BAY**

Mr George considered that Natural England's proposals in respect of Portland in its report were satisfactory and he had responded in those terms to the Secretary of State on behalf of the Crown Estate. The meeting agreed not to take any further action.

#### **775 – CHEYNE WEARES: OIL SPILLAGE**

Cllr. Thurston reported on a recent incident when the driver of a private car entering through the gate at the site had failed to see a pothole. As a result he had sheared the oil sump off his car and a quantity of oil had been deposited. Cllr. Paisley had offered to remedy both the pothole and the spillage.

Cllr. Thurston pointed out that Cllr. Paisley had undertaken several repairs at Cheyne Weares for the Council free of charge and that it would be necessary to table an agenda item for the Council to consider more formal arrangements in the future.

The Clerk was asked to check the current situation with Cllr Paisley and report back to the Council.

**776 – THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS CHALLENGE**

The Clerk was asked to contact the Portland Ranger to see if she was already aware of the Challenge, to write to the project managers to clarify the extent of a council’s involvement and to speak to Stuart Morris if the ownership of a given piece of land on the Island was in doubt.

**777 – BETTER BROADBAND ON THE ISLAND**

Cllr. West commented that good broadband provision on the Island would not necessarily be a legacy of the Olympics. The infrastructure would remain behind, but its operation would need to be paid for afterwards.

**RECOMMENDED** – that the Council take responsibility for championing better broadband on the Island and that Cllr. Munro be asked to take a lead role.

**778 – MEMBERSHIP OF THE PARTNERSHIP**

**RECOMMENDED** – that Revive Portland and Portland Community Partnership be invited to send representatives to 2012 Partnership meetings.

**779 – STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)**

**d) Dry-Stone Walls**

Mr George said he had spoken to the Portland Ranger about the need for walls to be repaired, especially those at Weston. Mrs Sofaer offered training at the Trust for any who were interested in carrying out such repairs. Mr George and Mrs Sofaer undertook to report back on progress.

**780 – ISSUES RAISED BY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS**

Mrs West drew attention to the excellent effort by the Stone and Quarry Trust at the recent National Stone Exhibition in London, which had generated much interest in signing up for courses offered by the Trust.

**781 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair advised members that the next meeting of the Partnership would take place at the Council Offices on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011, commencing at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

Signed..... (Chair) Date.....