

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 2012, MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 4TH AUGUST 2010

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs S. Bradley (Chair), Mrs J. Collinge, R. Denton-White, M. Gosling, R. Hughes and D. Thurston together with Lyn Cooch (Portland Ranger), Charles Frampton (Portland Stone & v Quarry Trust), Bob Elliott (Quality Time Training) and Sue Lees (Windmill Stables).

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk).

717 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Philip George (Crown Estate), Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institution) and John Tweed (Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy).

718 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

719 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH JUNE 2010

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

720 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

Minute 712 – 2012 Olympics, Provision of Toilets

Answering a query from Cllr. Denton-White, Cllr. Collinge gave a verbal report on the results to date of the survey she had carried out with Cllr. Bradley.

Mrs Cooch referred to the work of the Sensory Trust, which campaigns on behalf of handicapped people. One of its key issues is the availability of good car parking, refreshments and toilet facilities in the vicinity of tourist and leisure sites.

721 – 2012 OLYMPICS

Cllr. Bradley described some of the details emerging from a LOCOG meeting she had attended with Cllr. Thurston. These included a high security fence to be erected around the environs of the shore sailing area and an Olympic “village” of 350 tents.

Cllr. Thurston added his concern about local firms not being involved in the preparations for the Games. Mr Elliott then spoke of behalf of several local firms which may suffer as a result of the Games requiring them to close down for an unknown period of weeks over security considerations.

722 – FINGERPOST SPOTTING

Members consider a letter from Dorset AONB Partnership. Mrs Lees agreed to carry out a survey of fingerposts on behalf of the Partnership.

723 – STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)

a) Disused Quarries

Mr Frampton reported that the Stone & Quarry Trust’s bid for Chalk and Cheese funding had been successful.

Mrs Cooch spoke concerning the Quarry Trail. The tunnel under Wide Street had been opened up, but remained fenced off to public access. More work was necessary to make it more stable. Meanwhile a new leaflet about Tout Quarry had been produced. It was hoped that a footpath through the Port would become available by 2012. With regard to wild goats on the Island it was planned to introduce a further fifteen, including six nannies.

b) Litter and Fly-Tipped Material

Cllr. Collinge reported her finding that if rubbish was tipped on private land it was the owner's responsibility to remove it.

The Clerk had received a response from the Environment Agency. Apparently the Agency maintains a 24-hour hotline to which tipping can be reported, but the Agency is only responsible if more than twenty tons of rubbish has been dumped in any one area. Otherwise it falls to the local authority to deal with.

Mrs Cooch offered the opinion that the problem had diminished on the Island recently, for example in Tout Quarry and along the bed of the old railway line. She announced that the date of this year's Island Clean-up would be Saturday, 2nd October and suggestions for sites to be tackled were welcome.

d) Dry-Stone Walls

Mrs Cooch explained that walls in Sweethill had been worked on by the YOI. Portland Gas had paid for the services of a waller, including the cost of him training others. Portland Stone were currently requesting repairs for small area of walls they owned. The County Council was prepared to offer training courses on the Island for any who were interested.

Mrs Lees said her response to the Town Council's letter of enquiry about setting up a volunteer group on the Island had been delayed by the absence of the chairman of the Purbeck Stone Walls group. However the chairman had recently commented that, with volunteers difficult to attract, it was unlikely that the group's work could be extended to Portland.

Cllr. Hughes indicated that YOI's continuing interest in providing the manpower for repair work.

Mrs Cooch offered to help organise training for a workforce to assist Mrs Lees, although conceding that volunteers could not provide as good a job as the experts.

(Cllr. Hughes left the meeting at 8.45pm.)

724 – ISSUES RAISED BY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Mr Elliott said the Wreck to Reef project had now been adopted by the County Council and would proceed.

Mr Frampton enquired about progress on providing a bus stop by the Drill Hall. Cllr. Bradley said that she had discussed this with South West Coaches, who favoured the idea but had advised that a lay-by would be necessary. Cllr. Bradley would now take this up with the County Council. It was agreed to make this an item for the next Planning Committee agenda.

725 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised members that the next meeting of the Partnership would take place at the Council Offices on Wednesday, 6th October 2010, commencing at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

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