

## **PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 2012, MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2012**

**PRESENT:** Councillors R. Wild (Chair), Mrs S. Bradley, Mrs J. Collinge and D. Symes, together with Philip George (Crown Estate), Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership), Lyn Cooch (Portland Ranger), Charles Frampton and Hannah Sofaer (Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust), Bob Elliott (Quality Time Training Ltd) Carrie Dalby (Revive Portland) and John Tweed (Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy).

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Michael Dunn (BT), Michael Weaver (Openreach), Carly Galloway (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council, Laura Kitching (Dorset Echo) and two members of the public.

#### **836 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs P. McCartney, Miss A. Munro and Mrs S. West, together with Robert Sansom (HM Coastguard), Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institution), John Stobart (Natural England) and Yvonne Beven (Revive Portland).

#### **837– DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Symes declared a personal interest in the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge.

#### **838 – BROADBAND IN DORSET AND ON PORTLAND**

Messrs. Dunn and Weaver gave a joint presentation. Mr Dunn opened by describing the different systems on offer. The copper wire-based service would be delivered to 90% of the UK by 2012. The fibre-based service would approximately double speeds and this was what was being delivered to Portland now, phase 1 of the scheme being completed that week. Following representations Weston and Southwell had been added to the programme.

Mr Weaver explained that to convert to the superfast broadband a new MTE socket plate and modem was needed to be added for each end-user. Suitable modems would be supplied by the Internet Service Provider.

Mr Dunn clarified that the five green telephone boxes not updated in phase 1 supplied connections to Castle Road, Wide Street, the dockyard, Victoria Square and Dean & Reddyhoff.

#### **839 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2011**

Mrs Dalby requested that minute 825(a) be amended to read “Revive” instead of “the Portland Community Partnership.” With this amendment the minutes were formally agreed and signed as a correct record.

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

### **a) Minute 825 (a) – 2012 Olympics: Look and Feel Initiative**

The Clerk said he had enquired about the VAT arrangements but to date had received no reply.

### **b) Minute 834 (c) – Island Plan**

Mr Matthews reported that he was looking at taking matters forward and will keep the Clerk informed of progress.

## **841 – COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANNING**

Carly Galloway of the Borough's Emergency Planning Unit gave a presentation. She observed that the idea had been introduced before that of the "Big Society," but it was hoped the mechanisms of the latter would help. The overriding principle was to encourage communities to help themselves in developing contingency plans for a range of emergencies. Such possibilities included bad weather, isolation of the Island, loss of utilities, epidemics, intentional public disorder e.g. fuel strikes.

Because administrative help was limited both in terms of numbers and local knowledge the task was being placed in the hands of the community. The Cockermouth floods had shown that of the two communities either side of the river the one that had planned better recovered faster.

The Emergency Planning Unit has provided an assortment of information guides, maps and plan development templates to assist in formulating the resilience plans.

## **842 – 2012 OLYMPICS**

Mr Tweed presented a report on the various activities taking place at the Sailing Academy over the next few months. A written copy of this report is appended to the minutes.

Mr Elliott spoke about some of the negative impacts arising from the Games. He mentioned the closure of Cove Marine and the loss of boats from the marina because of the necessary restrictions on traffic. Mr Tweed detailed the measures being taken by the Sailing Academy to encourage boat-owners to return.

(Mrs Cooch and Mr Elliott left the meeting.)

## **843 – COASTGUARD AND HELICOPTER SERVICE CLOSURE**

The Clerk reported that the Council had approved the Partnership's recommendation to write to the Maritime & Coastguard Agency about the closure.

Cllr. Collinge said that Cllr. West had got involved with the attempt to retain the helicopter service.

## **844 – THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS CHALLENGE**

No further news was to hand.

## **845 – GRIT BINS**

Cllr. Wild reported that he had found a recess for grit on Verne Hill Road. He proposed and it was **RECOMMENDED** – that the Council's fourth bin be located at Higher Light Lane.

**846 – AID TO VISITING AND DISTRESSED SEAMEN**

Cllr. Wild described the problem of seamen, mainly foreign, being in effect stranded at Portland through force of circumstances. Some action was already taking place to alleviate the problems, but Churches Together were looking at further remedies and he felt there was a need for more volunteers, particularly people able to converse in other languages.

It was agreed to take no further action for the present.

**847 – WASTE AND RECYCLING**

Mr Matthews thought a public presentation of the new County-wide arrangements would be helpful and undertook to provide one at a meeting of the Portland Community Partnership.

**848 – MAINTENANCE OF DRY STONE WALLING**

It was agreed to take the question of formulating a policy to the Town Council.

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

No issues were raised.

**850 – ISSUES RAISED BY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS**

There were none.

**851 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair advised members that the next meeting of the Partnership would take place at the Council Offices on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.

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