

## **PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

### **UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013 AT ST. ANDREW'S PARISH HALL, SOUTHWELL, PORTLAND**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs S. Bradley (Town Mayor), Mrs R. Barton, Mrs J. Collinge, R. Hughes, R. Nowak, Mrs S. West and R. Wild. Four members of the general public also present.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk) and Stuart Cave (Town Crier).

#### **13/1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Miss A. Munro, T. Munro, Mrs E. Munro-Price and I. Munro-Price.

#### **13/2 – MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2012**

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

#### **13/3 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

##### **a) Minute 12/5 – Town Mayor's Report**

Cllr. West asked how many events Cllr. Ian Munro-Price had attended. The Clerk undertook to provide a written answer.

##### **b) Minute 12/7, para 3 – Hambro Car Park**

Cllr. Collinge asked what had happened concerning Revive's offer to provide a temporary garden or play area there. Mr Matthews, representing Portland Community Partnership, said the Borough had been concerned that any such work done there would create the possibility of an ownership claim. Despite reassurances from the Community Partnership the Borough had maintained this view and therefore no work had been carried out.

#### **13/4 – TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

Cllr. Bradley identified the Olympics as the natural high point of her mayoral year and singled out some of the events involved, starting with the arrival of the Olympic torch on the Island on 13<sup>th</sup> July, and including a service at All Saints Church.

The Council had expedited the purchase of the BT telephone kiosk at Wakeham for the Friends group. More recently the Borough had offered to hand over to the Town responsibility for the Visitor Centre at the Bill and the Council were still reviewing the possibility.

As usual the Town Council had made grants to a number of local good causes and also decided to increase the budget figure to £2,000 for the new financial year. Indeed the Council had approved a large increase in the precept for 2013/14, predominantly with the thought of appointing an Island handyman.

Fortuneswell Post Office had closed after functioning for one hundred and fifty years at its present site. However the service had transferred to the newsagents down the

road and now would have longer opening hours. The post office had reopened at Easton under similar circumstances, apparently successfully.

Cllr. Bradley had attended the opening of the Portland Pride shop, also in Fortuneswell, an exciting community venture offering local produce.

HMS Portland was due to berth at the Island on a few days' time fresh from her refurbishment and rededication service, for which the Mayor was also present.

Cllr. Bradley mentioned Portland Heritage Study Centre's offer to house the Council's archives as they became available.

She also referred to Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust's refurbishment of the building alongside the Drill Hall as a site for perpetuating the Island's long tradition of stone carving.

At the close of the Mayor's speech Cllr. Collinge congratulated Cllr. Bradley on her mayoral year, saying she had proven a great representative for the Island.

Inviting questions about the last municipal year, Cllr. Bradley was asked about the Academy. It is understood the latest version of the planning application will be considered by the Borough Planning Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr. Barton asked if Cllr. West could keep Town members informed of the progress of the application.

A member of the public asked concerning the existing Brackenbury Infants School. The Clerk and Cllr. Nowak reported on their visit. Both thought there were defects with the accommodation as far as the members were concerned. Cllr. Nowak thought it likely that either the County or the Borough would come up with another offer eventually.

### **13/5 – FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2012/13**

The Clerk presented his report. It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that the report be accepted.

### **13/6 – REPORT BY THE TOWN CRIER**

The Crier noted that it was now three years since the vacancy was advertised. He drew attention to the fact that the Council's post was an unpaid one and that his uniform had been made by his wife and the Council only paid the cost of the materials.

He saw his role as Town Crier to promote Portland whenever, wherever. In doing so he had opened school fetes, met cruise ships and attended Mayor-Making events, the Ceremony of the Keys, a day with Lithuanian musicians, pancake races and Portland Fair. He had opened a shop for Julia's House, given cries for Save the Portland Helicopter and the arrival of the Olympic Torch on the Island and attended competitions in Dorchester and Seaton, making the winning cry at the former.

### **13/7 – ELECTORS' ITEMS**

One elector raised the subject of dog mess on the Island. As a former dog warden himself Cllr. Wild said the greatest volume of complaints from the public was on this

particular topic, but experience had shown there was considerable difficulty in enforcing the existing legislation.

Cllr. Wild gave an update on the situation at Vindelis Court. After a meeting with Synergy, the Police and the developer the site had been cleared and the buildings there would also be cleared shortly. The Police were arranging patrols to help maintain that state.

Cllr. Hughes raised the matter of a football pitch being reinstated in the Officers' Field development as promised. Cllr. Wild linked with this the new gate and railings promised by Zero C, as recorded in the minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting, minute 12/7, para 10.

Finally Cllr. Barton mentioned the Portland gateway and asked that it be an agenda item at a future Town Council meeting.

**13/8 – DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING**

The next Annual Town Meeting is due to take place on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm.

Signed ..... Dated .....  
(Town Mayor)