

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

ADDITIONAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH APRIL 2015 AT THE EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL

PRESENT: Councillors R. Wild (Chair), Mrs S. Bradley, G. Chadwick, R. Denton-White, R. Hughes, Ms S. Lees, A. Matthews, R. Nowak and Mrs S. Reynolds

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev James Menzies (Mayor's Chaplain), Cllr. Sandy West (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), Sgt Steve Yeoman (Dorset Police) and six members of the public

2816 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

2817 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. Miss A. Munro.

2818 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs. Chadwick, Lees, Matthews, Reynolds and others (not Cllrs. Denton-White nor Wild) declared involvement in Facebook and other associated groups. All were accepted as having a pecuniary interest with dispensation as Council Taxpayers.

2819 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

Sgt Yeoman said the level of crime on the Island was currently very low and proceeded to go through his list by type of crime. Cases of unnetted stone lorries had come to their attention recently and a "strong message" had been sent out.

Cllr. Wild reported that a DAPTC meeting he had attended drew attention to a 101 phone line failure due to Cable & Wireless. Sgt Yeoman said the problem arose in moving the call centre from Bournemouth to Winfrith and e-mails were equally acceptable for non-emergencies.

A member of the public noted very few Portlanders being reported on the Echo Courts page. Cllr Wild added a query about the drugs situation on the Island. Sgt Yeoman replied that there was limited nuisance on the Island and very little problem around the "ghost tunnels".

Cllr. Chadwick thought fly-tipping was on the increase. Sgt Yeoman agreed it was a County-wide issue. If a particular area was being targeted for tipping the problem could be raised with other agencies. Cllr. Lees said Cheyne Weares in particular was being affected, which Sgt Yeoman judged to be an environmental health issue.

Finally a member of the public drew attention to contractors' vehicles being parked on Verne Common Road.

b) Public Half-Hour

Mr Martin Luther requested that the public not be excluded from Agenda Item 20 – Councillor Suspension.

c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr. West said difficulties arose now the Borough no longer had any planning officers based in Weymouth. She also noted that parking charges in the town were continuing to prove a bone of contention.

Cllr. Nowak reported a decision had been taken that the Borough continue to maintain Easton and Victoria Gardens. From the latest meeting of the Portland Quarries Liaison Committee he gathered that Stone Firms were likely to move to mining. Planning permissions were needed first, but the end result was likely to be less effect on the environment.

Cllr. Nowak also said the travails of the Dorset Waste Partnership continued. Its new management plan was not supported by the Borough. This could result in the whole of the work being retendered.

Cllr. Bradley questioned the frequency of contrary planning decisions being taken at the Borough. Cllr. West said this arose from its five-year Local Plan not being in place yet. Developers were appealing if a rejected application was not mentioned in the local planning framework and could claim costs for doing so. Cllr. West had no further news of the conservation area reassessment.

2820 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18TH MARCH 2015

Minute 2797 – Separation of Town Mayor and Chairman Roles

Cllr. Matthews said that it was Cllr. Chadwick and not himself that had proposed the motion. With this alteration the minutes were formally approved and signed as a correct record. (For: 9 votes, Against: 0 votes, Abstentions: 0 votes)

2821 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

Minute 2785, para 2 – Alice in Wonderland Themed Party

Cllr. Chadwick asked about the results of the party. The Town Mayor said the proceeds were about £200, which meant had had raised about £2,500 in his year.

2822 – MINUTES OF THE ADDITIONAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9TH APRIL 2015

The minutes were formally approved and signed as a correct record. (8-0-1)

2823 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

2824 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor allowed his Chaplain to announce a parliamentary hosting event to be held on 5th May at Easton Methodist Church. Most of the main parties had advised of their intention to attend. Questions were to be notified in advance to Rev. Chris Briggs.

2825 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR

There were none.

2826 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 3262 - 3273) in the sum of £3,283.79 including VAT be authorised for payment. (9-0-0)

b) 2014/15 Financial Report to 31st March 2015

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted. (9-0-0)

2827 – TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR, 2015/16

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Rod Wild be nominated as Town Mayor for the year 2015/16. (9-0-0)

It was proposed by Cllr. Reynolds that Cllr. Sylvia Bradley be nominated as Deputy Town Mayor for 2015/16. It was proposed by Cllr. Hughes that Cllr. Glenn Chadwick also be nominated as Deputy Town Mayor. Members agreed not to take a vote on the matter.

2828 – SEPARATION OF TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN ROLES

The Clerk advised members not to proceed with incorporating its previous decision in the existing Standing Orders, but to wait upon the imminent recommendations of the Standing Orders Working Group. Members accepted the advice.

2829 – STANDING ORDERS

2830 – FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Members agreed to take no further decisions regarding the format of the revision intended, but to leave that to the new Council.

2831 – GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A decision to adopt the SLCC's Model Grievance Procedure had been made at the previous Additional Council meeting on 9th April.

2832 – COUNCIL REVIEW

The Clerk advised members of the quotation received for the second phase of the review, which was of the order of £6,000.

2833 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Clerk said he had anticipated making a short, straightforward report on the next agenda item, 16 – Temporary Assistant Clerk, but the situation had become more complicated and therefore he requested it be considered in private. It was proposed by Cllr Hughes and **RESOLVED** – that the item be deferred until after Agenda Item 20. (9-0-0)

2834 – COUNCILLORS' NEWS FROM THE WARDS

Cllr. Chadwick reported that to help combat fly-tipping a group of fourteen people, "Working for a Better Portland", had recently gathered thirty bags of rubbish.

Cllr. Nowak reported on some disputes that individual residents had with Aster Housing.

Cllr. Wild said PCSO Bool was considering reviving a motor bike club on the Island.

Cllr. Matthews expressed his disappointment that the County was intending to sell Underhill School.

Cllr. Lees reported on a recent meeting of Dorset Access Forum and their intention to identify accessibility routes for the disabled. Help would be needed.

2835 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

Cllr. Matthews reported that the Borough was supporting a new Tourism Board with Angie Mustill the representative for Portland. Cllr. Hughes said that South West Trains were offering free advertising for Portland business, but there was a slight “catch” involved. Cllr. Chadwick expressed concern that these matters were not receiving wide enough publicity.

Cllr. Wild reported on a DAPTC Central Area meeting. A scheme to provide safer routes to school had been dealt a heavy blow by the switch to IPACA Campuses. Mention had also been made of the disruption caused by parked vehicles for sale outside Wyke Regis Infants and Junior Schools.

Another speaker from the Borough had advised that “Stop and Go” boards were now required for groups litter-picking along a main road.

2836 – COUNCILLOR SUSPENSION

Members firstly discussed whether or not to hold the debate in private. It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that the debate be held in public. (7-0-2)

It was agreed that the Councillor concerned by not responding to the Council’s enquiries was in breach of SO 33(b). Regarding the decision to suspend, members tended to view that it could not be reversed for six months, as per SO 36(a).

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that in the light of no new information the matter not be discussed for the remainder of the six-month period. (9-0-0)

2837 – EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **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 Agenda Item 16 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. (8-1-0)

2838 – TEMPORARY ASSISTANT CLERK

It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – that until further notice the post be temporary on a yearly renewable contract. (9-0-0)

It was further proposed by Cllr. Matthews and **RESOLVED** – that, in the absence of an Assistant Clerk the Clerk have discretion to reallocate the post's six hours per week among the other staff as overtime. (9-0-0)

2839 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meetings are due to take place on Wednesday, 20th May 2015 (Mayor-Making) and Tuesday, 26th May 2015 (Adjourned Town Council), starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.

Signed Dated
(Chair)