

**PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2013**

**PRESENT:** Councillors L. Ames (Chair), Mrs R. Barton, Mrs S. Bradley, R. Denton-White, Miss A. Munro, T. Munro, R. Nowak (from 7.10 pm) and R. Wild.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. T. Gomm (Mayor's Chaplain), Councillors Paul Kimber and Kate Wheller (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council and Dorset County Council) and two members of the public.

**2433 – PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

**2434 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Mrs E. Munro-Price and I. Munro-Price.

**2435 – ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Cllr. Tim Munro proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that Reports from Borough and County Councillors be henceforth a third agenda item under Open Forum.

**2436 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**2437 – OPEN FORUM**

**a) Police Question Time**

No representatives of the Police were present.

**b) Public Half-Hour**

There were no questions from the people present.

**c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

Cllr. Kimber informed members that he sits on the County's Adult Services, Environmental Services and Farms Committees.

He referred to recent issues concerning Bottomcombe Quarry and regretted the demise of the Council's Mineral Liaison Committee as a means of dealing with problems.

He agreed with Cllr. Denton-White's concerns about the size of council budgets and said there were still big reductions to come in the County's budget. It was possible that the Town Council might be offered some of the services that will be relinquished.

Cllr. Wheller sits on the Adult & Communities, Public Health and Roads & Rights of Way Committees.

She told members that she had received many phone calls about blocked footpaths and therefore had arranged to meet the head of the County footpaths section. She

was also trying to meet a representative of First Bus about the No. 1 service to the Island.

#### **2438 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2013**

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

#### **2439 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

##### **a) Minute 2421(b) – Visitor Centre**

Answering a question from Cllr. Barton, the Clerk said the decision that only representatives of the Crown Estate, Trinity House and the Town Council attend the recent meeting had been determined by the Crown Estate.

##### **b) Minute 2424(c) – Fixed Interest Account**

The Clerk reported that the account had not yet been opened because of Barclays insistence on obtaining the necessary details from all the designated signatories.

##### **c) Minute 2427 – Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr. Tim Munro confirmed that Mr Robert Lennis had been informally invited to join the Working Group as a lay member. The Clerk said no official approach had been made and agreed to write to Mr Lennis.

##### **d) Minute 2429 – Council Chairs and Tables**

The Clerk reported that he was awaiting a response from the Borough about ownership of furniture and fittings at the Offices.

#### **2440 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

#### **2441 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR**

None had been received.

#### **2442 – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

##### **a) Payments for Authorisation**

**RESOLVED** – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2908 – 2917) in the provisional sum of £2,646.43 including VAT be authorised for payment.

##### **b) 2013/14 Financial Report to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013**

**RESOLVED** – that the report be accepted.

#### **2443 – CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS**

As there were only two candidates for the two vacancies members agreed to dispense with detailed interviews. **RESOLVED** – that Mr Andy Matthews and Mrs Sandra Reynolds be co-opted as Councillors, Mr Matthews for Underhill Ward and Mrs Reynolds for Tophill West Ward.

#### **2444 – ORDER OF BUSINESS**

It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that Agenda Item 11 – Island Caretaker be taken after Agenda Item 15 – Exclusion of Press & Public.

#### **2445 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**RESOLVED** – that the written report of the Clerk be accepted.

#### **2446 – PORTLAND BILL VISITOR CENTRE**

Cllr. Nowak reported on the recent meeting held with the Crown Estate and Trinity House. The Council members present had stressed the Council was keen to support tourism on the Island and was interested in running the Centre or assisting others to run it. However Trinity House had indicated a much greater interest and funds to support it. Therefore it was thought that the likely agreement between Trinity House and the Crown Estate would be a better deal for the Island.

The Councillors asked Trinity House for a local tourist information point to be provided at the Visitor Centre in its new guise, which Trinity House agreed.

Cllr. Ames added that it was intended that the new lighthouse museum and tower itself would be open twelve months a year as opposed to the current six.

Cllr. Nowak offered to research the amount of Borough funding still available for tourist information and Cllr. Tim Munro asked that other dual-hatted councillors be included.

#### **2447 – COUNCIL WEBSITE**

The Clerk presented a report on design options and associated costs available from the site developer. It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that a working group investigate the matter, comprising Cllrs. Matthews, Ian Munro-Price and Nowak, and to have delegated authority for development of the website within the budget set.

#### **2448 – EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

**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 11 – Island Caretaker by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

#### **2449 – ISLAND CARETAKER**

Cllr. Barton, Chair of the Working Group, explained that she had withdrawn from the interview panel because all the candidates were known personally to her.

Cllr. Tim Munro, who had chaired the panel, reported on the interview process. He said the candidates had been of “exceptional quality,” but there had been unanimity in agreeing the preferred applicant. The Caretaker was being appointed at thirty hours a week for a six-month trial period in order to consider further the implications for the next financial year. This agreement was well within the budget provided.

**RESOLVED** – (a) that the Working Group’s recommendation of an appointment be accepted and (b) that the Working Group remain convened to manage the caretaker role and contractor over the trial period.

**2450 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013 starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm.

Signed..... Dated.....  
(Chair)