

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14TH DECEMBER 2016 IN EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL, EASTON

PRESENT: Councillors R. Nowak (Chairman), J. Draper, C. Flack, Ms S. Lees (from 7.05 pm), Mrs S. Reynolds, A. Sergison, D. Thurston and Mrs S. West.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. Chris Briggs (Mayor's Chaplain), Cllr. Paul Kimber (Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), Mr Andy Matthews (Neighbourhood Plan Working Group) and one member of the public.

3309 – CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Cllr. Nowak welcomed all to the meeting and advised of fire precautions at the hall.

3310 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

3311 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Mrs S. Cocking, C. Gover, D. Symes and R. Wild, together with Cllr. Kate Wheller (Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), PS Jane Moore and PC Mike Holman (Dorset Police.)

3312 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3313 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police

There was no representative present.

b) Public Half-Hour

Mr Matthews requested permission to speak under Agenda Item 13 – Council Budget, 2017/18.

Mr Rob Hughes indicated his willingness to be involved in the event marking the departure of the rescue helicopter service. He also expressed his regret that the Council had decided not to make a grant this year to his not-for-profit company, C-Waves Diving. From the chair Cllr. Nowak explained the thinking behind the decision.

c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr. Paul Kimber reported that the County's Cabinet was due to consider plans for the Western Growth Corridor. This looked as far ahead as 2033 and offered the prospect of more jobs locally and rail improvements. He suggested the Council request an economic development officer from the County to address the members on the subject.

Cllr. Kimber advised that next day the County would consider its tax charge for 2017/18, likely to rise by around 6% in accordance with Government spending

permissions. He also informed members of the County's intention to buy land at Winfrith for a technology park.

Cllr. West said planning approval had been granted for a development at 133 - 148 Wakeham. She also noted complaints from residents about long waits for buses and that she was due to see the local manager in January. The Clerk was asked to write to First Bus too.

Cllr. Nowak brought members up to date with the unitary council consultation and decision-making. Two district councils had opted for preserving the status quo, but the government was likely to disregard this in the face of wider support for a unitary solution. He also announced his intention to bring a motion at the Borough for Portland assets and responsibilities to be transferred to the Town Council.

3314 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, 16TH NOVEMBER 2016

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

3315 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Minute 3300, para 1 – Islanders Club

Cllr. West advised that the Club would be holding its AGM at 6.30 pm on 24th January 2017, when it would be looking for new trustees and committee members.

b) Minute 3304 – Events & Tourism Working Group

From the chair Cllr. Nowak offered his congratulations and thanks to all the members involved in the arrangements for Easton Promise.

3316 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN

There were none.

3317 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. West reported good feedback on Easton Promise and the Civic Carol Service.

3318 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

The Clerk explained the content of this month's superannuation payment.

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices as stated (cheque refs. 300095 – 300110) in the sum of £5,205.57 including VAT be authorised for payment.

b) 2016/17 Financial Report to 30 November 2016

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted.

c) External Audit Report, 2015/16

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted.

3319 – DRAFT 2017/18 CALENDAR AND ACTION PLAN

It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – (1) that the June Town Council meeting be changed to the 28th, (2) that June Planning Committee be changed to the 29th, (3) that the August and December Town Council meetings be deleted.

Cllr. Nowak advised members that these changes would require a process to be agreed for the approval of the payments schedule in the months when a Council meeting had been cancelled or moved.

3320 – DRAFT PUBLICATION SCHEME

It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – that the draft publication scheme be adopted.

3321 – COUNCIL BUDGET, 2017/18

Discussion was deferred to the January meeting.

3322 – RESCUE HELICOPTER

Cllr. Thurston said there had been a big response to the idea of commemorating the end of the service from Portland. It was agreed to have an agenda item at the January Council meeting to form a working group which could plan an event and assess the cost.

3323 – LIVING AND LEARNING PILOT PROJECT

RESOLVED – that Cllrs. West and Thurston represent the Council at the Portland Stakeholder meeting on 18th January 2017.

3324 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

There were none.

3325 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 18th January 2017, at Peter Trim Hall, St. George's Centre, Reforme starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm.

Signed Dated.....
(Chair)