

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH JANUARY 2017, IN THE PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE, REFORNE

PRESENT: Councillors R. Nowak (Chairman), Ms J. Atwell, Mrs S. Cocking, J. Draper, C. Flack, C. Gover, Ms S. Lees, Mrs S. Reynolds, D. Symes, D. Thurston, Mrs S. West and R. Wild.

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 approximately thirty members of the public.

3326 – CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

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

3327 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

3328 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. A. Sergison and PC Mike Holman (Dorset Police).

3329 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3330 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police

There was no representative present.

b) Public Half-Hour

Paul Snow raised concerns about the level of spending on the Council Offices.

Rob Hughes expressed the hope that the Council would restrict the rise in the precept.

Mr Matthews was apprehensive that the Town Council might lose out on acquiring assets befitting it as a parish through the likely reorganisation to unitaries.

Cllr. Nowak advised that he had put forward a motion to the full Borough Council, proposing that officers report on the possible transfer of assets to Portland and Weymouth Town Councils.

c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr. Paul Kimber said a bollard had been knocked over at the entrance to Fancy's Close. Both bollards there will now be replaced. He thanked Cllr. Draper for photographs of Reap Lane, where IPACA was intending to carry out repairs. Regarding the County, its budgets for next year had not yet been finalised, but Government grant aid was nearing zero.

Cllr. West reported that the Islanders Club had reopened with a new volunteer leader. She described the Incline as very dangerous now near the bottom and wondered if others had also found that.

Cllr. Nowak said the Borough's Management Committee had voted the previous day in favour of a unitary council, though he personally had been against it.

3331 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, 14TH DECEMBER 2016

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

3332 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 3315(b) – Events & Tourism Working Group

Cllr. Lees thought there was a need for another meeting soon.

3333 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

From the chair Cllr. Nowak proposed that Agenda Items 11 – 13 be taken after Item 16. This was agreed.

3334 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN

There were none.

3335 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. West said she had received good feedback concerning the Carol Service. The captain of HMS Portland had written about their recent deployment, which included saving the lives of fourteen Iranian fishermen.

A service to celebrate the Queen's accession would be held on February 5th with a Mayor's Charity event and Civic Service to follow in March and April. At the end of this month she was due to meet representatives of First Bus with fellow Borough councillors, which would be an opportunity to discuss bus services on the Island.

3336 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices as stated (including cheque refs. 300111 – 300113) in the sum of £4,159.10 including VAT be authorised for payment.

b) 2016/17 Financial Report to 31st December 2016

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted.

c) Easton Promise

It was proposed by Cllr. Flack and **RESOLVED** – that the £211 donated to the Council at Easton Promise be committed to the Projects budget to help finance future events.

3337 – PORTLAND MAPS

It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – that £1,000 be donated to the Tourist Centre for a reprint of Portland maps.

3338 – RESCUE HELICOPTER

Cllr. Thurston updated members with developments towards a ceremony for helicopter service staff. It was agreed that Cllrs. West and Wild serve on the working

group with Cllr. Thurston. It was also felt that it should be impressed upon the Borough that the Town Council is taking the lead in organising the event. Cllr. Thurston will contact Helen Legg to this effect. Cllr. Nowak suggested a budget of £1,000 might need to be provided to meet the cost of a commemorative plaque and all the other incidentals.

3339 – LOTTERY-FUNDED EVENTS

Cllr. Symes agreed with the earlier suggestion for an Events & Tourism Working Group meeting. There was little discussion of the themes for the remaining events, but this would be debated at the Working Group meeting and reported back to Council.

3340 – ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK

There was no discussion. It was agreed it would be debated under Agenda Item 13 with the rest of the budget provision.

3341 – OFFICE ALTERATIONS

From the chair Cllr. Nowak explained that one planning application would be made for the Council Offices to cover its change of use and internal alterations. The Council would be seeking quotations from three architects for the design of the alterations. When drawings had been produced the planning application would be submitted.

3342 – COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT, 2017/18

RESOLVED – that the draft budget included in the agenda papers be received.

Cllr. Lees asked about the cost of restoring the Upham Watercolours. No quotation had been received so the issue was left on the table.

Council next examined the budget on a line-by-line basis. It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak that the budget figure for Salaries be reduced by £8,000 (the approximate annual cost of having an Assistant Clerk in the post).

RESOLVED – that the Salaries budget figure for 2017/18 be reduced from £38,500 to £30,500.

For: Cllrs. Cocking, Draper, Lees, Nowak, Symes and West

Against: Cllrs. Atwell, Flack, Thurston and Wild

Abstentions: Cllrs. Gover and Reynolds

The following alterations to the draft figures were also **RESOLVED** –

Expenditure

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Projects | £5,000 |
|----------|--------|

Income

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Discount Grant | £ 549 |
| Lottery Fund Grant (Events) | £ 500 |
| Lottery Fund Grant (Facilities) | £1,000 |

Reserves Released

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Landscape Maintenance | £ Nil |
| Neighbourhood Plan | £ Nil |

With a balanced budget the draft Precept figure therefore needed to be amended from £77,881 to £76,132.

It was proposed by Cllr. Draper, seconded by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that the precept be set at £76,132 for 2017/18.

3343 – 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 17 – Deed of Receipt and Release by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

3344 – QUESTIONNAIRE ON HEALTHCARE IN DORSET

It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – that members discuss the items in the questionnaire at an informal meeting and agree final answers at the next Council meeting.

3345 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

There were none.

(The public left the meeting.)

3346 – DEED OF RECEIPT AND RELEASE

It was proposed by Cllr. Thurston and **RESOLVED** – that the Council sign the deed of receipt and release for the Offices at Fortuneswell.

3347 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 15th February 2017, in the Peter Trim Hall, St. George's Centre, Reforne starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm.

Signed Dated.....
(Chair)