

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH JUNE 2016
IN PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. Chris Briggs (Mayor's Chaplain), Andy Matthews (Neighbourhood Plan Working Group) and two members of the public.

3187 – CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

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

3188 – PRAYERS

Rev. Chris Briggs led the meeting in prayer.

3189 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. C. Gover.

3190 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3191 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

No representative of the Police was present. Cllr. West said she had expressed her dissatisfaction to them that there had been so little communication in recent months.

b) Public Half-Hour

Rob Hughes commented on the number of people removing pebbles from the beach and noted that the Borough had only one sign, by Brandy Row, advising that this was prohibited. He also took the view that nowhere in the County was as bad as the Island for overgrown pavements.

Paul Snow commented on the item referring to the Council Offices on the agenda. He thanked all those involved in the move and questioned how the budget of £17,000 had been determined. He also wondered about the Council's security of tenure. Cllr. Nowak said the Council had a three-year lease.

Mr Snow asked what the projects budget would be spent on. Cllr. Cocking said this would go towards running things for the Island.

Finally Mr Snow asked concerning the Neighbourhood Plan, Mr Matthews said there had been a Plan meeting the previous week when there had been information concerning the Island's Plan for public display. More grant funding was likely to be forthcoming soon to assist the process. Cllr. Nowak commented that he understood the average cost of a neighbourhood plan was between £70,000 and £100,000. Mr Matthews also noted that the time of those people in the Plan Working Group had all been freely given.

c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors

None were given.

3192 – MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING (MAYOR-MAKING), 17TH MAY 2016 AND THE ADJOURNED TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, 18TH MAY 2016

The minutes of the two meetings were not available to the meeting.

3193 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

3194 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN

There were none.

3195 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. West expressed her appreciation for the Battle of Jutland commemoration service. She also advised of an anniversary service for the Battle of the Somme on 1st July at Easton Methodist Church.

3196 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

RESOLVED – that the Council take out a three-year subscription to DIS Extra.

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 3505 - 3528) in the sum of £12,293.94 including VAT be authorised for payment.

b) Annual Return, 2015/16

As the details concerning the return had only been made available at the meeting itself it was **RESOLVED** – that the Finance Working Group be delegated to review the documents provided and report back to the next meeting of the Town Council.

c) Auditor's Final Report, 2015/16

RESOLVED – that the report similarly be delegated to the attention of the Finance Working Group.

d) High Interest Account

Because of the sensitive nature of the financial information to be discussed it was proposed by Cllr. Cocking 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 10(d) – High Interest Account by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

3197 – COUNCIL OFFICES

a) Financial Offer from Weymouth & Portland Borough Council

It was proposed by Cllr. Thurston and **RESOLVED** – that the Town Council accept the Borough's offer of £50,000 in compensation for vacating the Fortuneswell Council Offices.

b) All Auctions Held

Cllr. Nowak reported that he had not yet received an update from Jurassic Auctions on the sale of the remaining unsold items.

c) Exit Strategy Working Group

Cllr. Nowak reported that some ongoing issues remained in connection with the move to Easton Street, electrical items, kitchen units and provision of hot water. He asked members to gather again at the new Offices after the meeting in order to discuss further matters.

Cllr. Nowak was thanked for all his work regarding the move.

(The public left the meeting.)

3198 – HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNT

Members discussed various account options.

RESOLVED – that the Council delegate responsibility to the Finance Working Group to secure the best funding opportunities, perhaps involving more than one account, which would report back to Council.

3199 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 13th July 2016, at the Peter Trim Hall, St. George’s Centre, Reforne starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm.

Signed Dated.....
(Chair)