

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH MARCH 2016
AT EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL, EASTON

PRESENT: Councillors R. Nowak (Chairman), Ms J. Atwell (from 7.15 pm), G. Chadwick, Mrs S. Cocking, J. Draper, C. Flack, Mrs S. Reynolds, D. Thurston, Mrs S. West and R. Wild

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. James Menzies (Mayor's Chaplain), Councillor Paul Kimber (Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), Mr Andy Matthews (Finance Working Group and Portland Community Partnership) and seven members of the public.

3115 – CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

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

3116 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

3117 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. C. Gover, Ms Sue Lees, A. Sergison and D. Symes.

3118 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3119 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

There was no representative of the Police present.

b) Public Half-Hour

Roger Luther requested a public discussion of Agenda Item 17 – Correspondence Concerning Former Member of the Council because it had previously required payments being made from public funds.

Rachel Barton, speaking as Chairman of the Coastal Communities Team, requested the support of the Council with funding the maintenance of stone benches at West Weares and the lighting of murals there.

An unidentified gentleman asked why the Council had taken votes on the 2016/17 precept at two separate meetings. The Chairman provided an explanation.

Andy Matthews asked for permission to speak on the agenda item concerning finance, which was granted.

Rob Hughes queried the recent resurfacing of the road close to the Sailing Academy when it seemed there were other stretches on the Island in greater need.

c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr. Kimber confirmed that the community bus service would start on 11th April with a civic launch by the Mayor. He warned that the County was expecting the service to be self-funding. The Councillor had obtained a public statement from the Lands Tribunal on the Coastal Strip. He had also written to Dorset Highways about the state of New Road.

(Cllr. Atwell joined the meeting.)

Finally Cllr. Kimber reported on the Dorset Councillors consultation meeting about reorganisation within the county. Majority opinion had favoured two unitaries, one for Bournemouth – Poole and one for “shire” Dorset, with asset-rich Christchurch’s alignment as yet undetermined.

Cllr. Nowak thought the Government would overrule local opinion by prescribing a single unitary. He also spoke about youth provision and said he would be pressing for S.106 money to finance new premises for young people.

Cllr. West reported planning approval for schemes involving the Mermaid and Whitestones, also agreement to fund the rebuilding of 11 High Street, Fortuneswell. She was compiling a dossier of potholes on the Island and trying to obtain extra lighting for Incline.

Cllr. Nowak said there were problems with housing association properties on the Island, involving damp and a general backlog of repair work. He had also been trying to obtain an extra bollard for the footpath at the bottom of Gypsy Lane. One had now been ordered apparently.

3120 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING, 17TH FEBRUARY 2016

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

3121 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

No matters were raised.

3122 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN

There were none.

3123 – ORDER OF BUSINESS

From the chair Cllr. Nowak advised of an additional agenda item, 19(c) – Risk Assessment, 2015/16 and the inadvertent omission of an agenda paper for Item 13 – West Weares.

3124 – TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. Wild had received a letter of thanks from TS Penn for the honour of being granted the Freedom of the Island.

3125 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 3456 – 3469) in the sum of £5,432.00 including VAT be authorised for payment.

b) 2015/16 Financial Report to 29th February 2016

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted.

c) Risk Assessment, 2015/16

The Council reviewed and assessed the full draft risk schedule. It was agreed that the Human Resources & IT Working Group would have responsibility for website items on future assessments.

RESOLVED – that the draft assessment be approved.

3126 – CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY

It was proposed by Cllr. West and **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Nowak be nominated as Chairman of the Council.

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. West be nominated as Town Mayor.

It was proposed by Cllr. Flack and **RESOLVED** – that Cllr. Symes be nominated as Deputy Town Mayor.

3127 – COUNCIL OFFICES

Cllr. Nowak reported on two Exit Strategy Working Group meetings. Cllr. Cocking and the Clerk were dealing with legal aspects of the move.

Cllr. Nowak also announced an Open Day on Saturday, 16th April to give residents a last opportunity to view the Offices building, the event to include an auction of items surplus to requirements. The proceeds would go to Council funds. Memorabilia would be stored at the new Offices.

3128 – WEST WEARES

RESOLVED – that the Council accept maintenance responsibility for the stone seats at West Weares subject to satisfactory explanatory information being received from the Borough.

3129 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

Three written reports were submitted at the meeting from DORBAG, on youth centres and on local government reorganisation in Dorset.

3130 – COUNCILLORS' NEWS FROM THE WARDS

Cllr. Flack reported airborne rust particles being deposited around Southwell as a result of building work at IPACA.

It was reported that Police street corner meetings had ceased.

RESOLVED – that Council support for a lady running marathons in aid of the Hidden Needs charity be discussed at the next Events Working Group meeting.

3131 – ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Cllr. Wild requested a public discussion on local government in Dorset at the Council meeting on 13th July, which was agreed.

3132 – 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 – Correspondence Concerning Former Member of the Council by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

3133 – CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING FORMER MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL

Updates were provided. No further actions were resolved for the present.

3134 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is due to take place at the Peter Trim Hall, St. George's Centre on Wednesday, 20th April 2016, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm.

Signed Dated.....
(Chair)