

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER 2016 IN EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL, EASTON

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), Cllrs. Paul Kimber (Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), Mr Andy Matthews (Neighbourhood Plan Working Group), PC Mike Holman (Dorset Police) and four members of the public.

3291 – CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

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

3292 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

3293 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

3294 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Cocking declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 15 – Council Grants, 2016/17, Cllr. Lees, Nowak and Wild non-pecuniary interest in the same Item, Cllr. Nowak as a trustee of Portland Museum and St. George's.

3295 – OPEN FORUM

a) Public Half-Hour

June Morley pointed out that she had not yet received a letter from the Council about its Lottery events.

Roger Luther asked whether the Council's funding of Easton Promise would be an ongoing commitment. From the chair Cllr. Nowak explained the funding for four events over the next twelve months. The Council might well organise Easton Promise in the future, but this was by no means definite.

Mr Luther also asked about the outstanding payment to the Council for auction items. The Chairman replied in line with the Council minute of the previous meeting.

Answering a question from June Morley, Cllr. Nowak explained the analysis of the Council's funding bid.

Paul Snow asked concerning the Council's donation to the Community Partnership for the Neighbourhood Plan. He wondered when the Plan was likely to come to fruition. Cllr. Draper, chairman of the Plan Management Committees said his committee oversaw all the payments involved. The Local Plan had impinged on the work they were doing, but the aim was still to take the Plan to a referendum in the spring of 2017.

b) Police Question Time (additional item)

Cllr. West asked what plans there were for cracking down locally on mobile phone usage while driving. PC Holman acknowledged that it was a widespread problem, but there were no specific plans for the Island.

Cllr. West also asked if street corner meetings would be resumed. PC Holman said they had obtained better results from PCSOs responding to online enquires.

Cllr. Thurston enquired about thefts and burglaries on the Island. PC Holman answered that the main issue at present was thefts from lock-up buildings.

Cllr. Thurston's other question was about a theft of cables from Stone Firms. PC Holman was not aware of the current state of the investigation. There had also been some lead thefts in the area, but stolen material were usually disposed of many miles away.

c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr. Kimber referred to the November meeting of the County Council, which had further discussed local government reorganisation in Dorset. Part of its recommendations related to town and parish councils. In December a series of meetings would be held for the principal councils to issue their final reports.

He also mentioned a Primary Care Commissioning Group Strategy Plan for Weymouth & Portland, which recommended fewer medical practices. This had generated some anger among County Council members.

Answering a question from Cllr. Wild, Cllr. Kimber said there were no plans for the local minor injuries unit to open seven days a week.

Cllr. Nowak reported that his request in July 2015 for more public waste bins now seemed a possibility next spring.

Cllr. Wild said that small refuse bins at the Castle were due to be replaced.

3296 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, 19TH OCTOBER 2016

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

3297 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 3273(c), para 1 – Round-the-Island Bus Service

Cllr. West commented that the bus was very full in the morning, but had some spare capacity in the afternoon. Its timekeeping too was very good.

3298 – DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

Cllr David Thurston made his declaration of acceptance and was invested with the badge of office.

3299 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN

There were none.

3300 – TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. West publicised a Community Carol Service on 4th December. She also mentioned an open meeting at the Islanders Club on 21st November.

The Island’s rescue helicopter would be withdrawn in July 2017. A small consolation was that the commercial company taking over the site would still provide a refuelling facility.

3301 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

Cllr. Cocking explained the background to the payment to the Community Partnership and advised that the first Internet payments were being made.

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices as stated (cheque refs. 300075 – 300094) in the sum of £14,054.68 including VAT be authorised for payment.

Cllr. Cocking requested members to submit their ideas for next year’s budget.

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

Bearing in mind the later agenda item on grants, Cllr. Nowak proposed that £1,000 be vired from the Projects budget to Grants.

Cllr. Gover proposed an amendment that the sum be £400. This was **LOST**.

RESOLVED – that £1,000 be vired from the Projects budget to Grants.

RESOLVED – that the amended report be accepted.

3302 – IPACA

Cllr. Wild asked for an amendment to his own motion, that “support the moves” read instead “support moves.” This was accepted.

RESOLVED – Portland Town Council is concerned about recent events concerning the proposed management of IPACA and will support moves to retain local governors to manage the school.

The Clerk was asked to write to convey this to Ms Jay Mercer at Dorset County Council with copies to six other parties.

3303 – BOOTS PHARMACIES ON THE ISLAND

It was proposed by Cllr. Atwell and **RESOLVED** – “that Portland Town Council writes to Boots urging them to respect the residents of the Island as a unique, separate community and keep the two pharmacies on the Island without curtailing opening hours or levels of service.”

3304 – EVENTS & TOURISM WORKING GROUPS

It was proposed by Cllr. Symes and agreed without a vote that discussion of the three remaining Lottery-funded events be deferred until the January meeting.

Cllr. Symes reported on recent meetings of the Events & Tourism Working Group in connection with Easton Promise. The only expenses likely to be incurred to date are

£106 for St. John Ambulance attendance and about £80 for a Christmas tree. The Offices will be open on the night of Easton Promise.

(Cllr. Cocking left the meeting.)

3305 – COUNCIL GRANTS, 2016/17

RESOLVED – that no award be made to C-Waves Diving.

RESOLVED – that the following grants be awarded:-

Island of Portland Heritage Trust	£500
Opportunities R Un Limited	£200
Portland Museum Trust	£500
Portland Women’s Institute	£ 90
Portland YMCA Red Triangle Club	£125
South Dorset Community Sports Trust	£500

It was suggested that the cheques be awarded at a photo-opportunity during Easton Promise and the Council invite representatives of the beneficiaries to attend.

3306 – FORTUNESWELL OFFICES: DEED OF RECEIPT AND RELEASE

From the chair Cllr. Nowak gave a verbal report. The Council’s position was that it was willing to sign a disclaimer of interest in the Fortuneswell Offices, but seeks to retain an interest in any allocation of funds and other assets arising from local government reorganisation, past or future. Cllr. Nowak is in discussion with Borough officers over a choice of wording that will be acceptable to both sides.

3307 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

DAPTC and SLCC reports were presented. Cllr. Thurston reported from the Quarries Liaison Committee. Stone excavation from the coastal strip remained a real possibility. Councillors were invited to attend a visit to the mine at Perryfield.

3308 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 14th December 2016, at Easton Methodist Church Hall, Easton starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

Signed Dated.....
(Chair)