

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2013

PRESENT: Councillors L. Ames (Chair), Mrs R. Barton, Mrs S. Bradley, R. Hughes, A. Matthews, Miss A. Munro, T. Munro, I. Munro-Price, R. Nowak and R. Wild.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev. T. Gomm (Mayor's Chaplain), Councillor Paul Kimber (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council and Dorset County Council), together with two members of the public.

2467 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

2468 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. R. Denton-White, Mrs E. Munro-Price and Mrs S. Reynolds.

2469 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

2470 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

There were no members of the Police present.

b) Public Half-Hour

There were no questions or comments.

c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr. Kimber reported that he had recently attended a County meeting concerning the Navitus Bay wind farm project. He observed that the project did not seem to be going down well with the public in Purbeck. Asked by Cllr. Tim Munro whether the County Labour Group had a particular stance on the project, Cllr. Kimber hoped the members would support it.

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price noted that the Sainsbury store had opened at Radipole that day and hoped that more jobs would follow in its wake. The Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership was nearly formed, which could act as a conduit for Government and EU finance. £500,000 had been allocated for a public space at Osprey Quay by the Royal Yachting Association site.

Cllr. Nowak said that the Borough is due to vacate its North Quay premises in the near future. He had suggested the use of the Town Council premises for Borough support staff who at present were due to transfer to the depot at Chickerell or Dorchester. Meanwhile a front office presence would be maintained somewhere in Weymouth.

Cllr. Matthews asked whether there had been any progress in reinstating some form of minerals working group. Cllr. Kimber replied, not so far and suggested some support from the Town Council to assist.

Cllr. Ian Munro-Price enquired about news of the future of Brackenbury School, now closed. Cllr. Kimber agreed to enquire.

2471 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18TH SEPTEMBER 2013

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

2472 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No issues were raised.

2473 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. Ames announced the resignation of Cllr. Tim Woodcock and the initiation of formal procedures for an election.

Cllr. Nowak proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that poll cards be issued, should they be required.

2474 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR

There were none.

2475 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

(1) It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that £50 be donated to the Royal British Legion in response to the wreath provided. (2) It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that staff travelling claims be submitted monthly. (3) **RESOLVED** – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 2929 – 2951) in the sum of £4,126.12 including VAT be authorised for payment.

b) 2013/14 Financial Report to 30th September 2013

The Clerk presented a second report, slightly revised from the version enclosed with the agenda. **RESOLVED** – that the second report be accepted.

c) Local Services Support Grant

The Clerk presented a written report, which was accepted.

2476 – COUNCIL GRANTS, 2013/14

Members considered applications from Age UK Dorchester, Island of Portland Heritage Trust, Life Education Wessex and Victim Support. Presentations were made by representatives of the Heritage Trust and Life Education.

The following grants were **RESOLVED**:-

Age UK Dorchester	£ 94.25
Island of Portland Heritage Trust	£300.00

Separate motions proposing grants to Life Education Wessex and Victim Support were both **LOST**.

It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that an advertisement be placed inviting applications for the remaining grant money.

As a postscript Cllr Barton said she thought there was a need for the Council to review its grant procedures.

2477 – REVIEW OF COUNCIL PROCEDURES

Cllr. Nowak spoke to his written report. The proposals put forward aimed at more structured meetings and offering greater consideration of new ideas in contrast with what was thought to be a more reactive approach at present.

After some debate it was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – that the report be accepted in principle and another special meeting of all members be held to refine the report and report back to the next meeting of the Town Council. The date of the meeting was fixed as Monday, 28th October 2013, starting at 6.00 pm.

2478 – ISLAND CARETAKER

a) Reports

Cllr. Barton, as Chair of the Working Group, outlined where the Caretaker had been working and what had been achieved. Regarding disposal of waste there was no firm agreement as yet. Stone Firms had undertaken to dispose of green waste on a temporary basis, but it remained to agree more permanent arrangements with the Borough and Dorset Waste Partnership.

Cllr. Barton also presented a draft press release, in relation to the work of the Island Caretaker to which Cllr. Tim Munro suggested some amendments. It was proposed by Cllr. Barton and **RESOLVED** – that the press release be issued, as amended.

The Clerk reported that references for the Caretaker had still not been received and asked for direction from the Council on how to proceed. It was agreed that no further action be taken until the Island Caretaker function was reviewed in the New Year.

b) Workwear

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that three hi-vis branded polo shirts be purchased.

2479 – CHEYNE WEARES

The Clerk spoke to reports from the Island Caretaker and himself concerning problems at Cheyne Weares.

In the course of discussion it was agreed that no gate be provided for the site nor rubbish bins. Cllr. Barton agreed to talk to the Caretaker regarding the other issues of potholes and graffiti.

(Cllr. Hughes left the meeting at 9.05 pm.)

2480 – WEBSITE WORKING GROUP

Cllr. Matthews spoke to his written report and recommendations. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Matthews and **RESOLVED** – that the report proposals be implemented at the stated cost, acquiring the website in the form stated in the report and noting the budget implications.

2481 – MEETING WITH BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFICERS

In the course of the discussion Cllr. Ian Munro-Price proposed acceptance of the report provided, a motion which was left unresolved. Cllr. Barton requested more transparency in the arrangements for such meetings.

Discussion continued in the course of which Cllr. Barton proposed to move to the next item of business, which was **RESOLVED**.

(Cllr. Barton left the meeting at 9.35 pm and Cllr. Ian Munro-Price shortly after.)

2482 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP MEETING, 9TH OCTOBER 2013

Members considered the recommendation from the Group. It was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that the Council allocate £6,300 to the Neighbourhood Plan budget.

2483 – CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION, 2013

The Clerk presented a brief verbal report of likely costs this year.

It was proposed by Cllr. Bradley and **RESOLVED** – that the Council continue to support the Competition for this financial year.

2484 – DORSET ASSOCIATION OF PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS AGM, 2013

In respect of the motion from Wareham St. Martin Parish Council it was proposed by Cllr. Tim Munro and **RESOLVED** – that the motion not be supported.

Regarding the motion from Chideock Parish Council it was proposed by Cllr. Wild that the motion be supported. This was **LOST**.

2485 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

Cllr. Wild drew attention to the warning from DAPTC that the district councils might well not pass on the support grant to their respective parishes. He hoped the AGM would have more to say on the subject.

2486 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 13th November 2013, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.50 pm.

Signed..... Dated.....
(Chair)