

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER 2015 IN EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL, EASTON

PRESENT: Councillors R. Wild (Chairman), Ms J. Atwell, G. Chadwick, Mrs S. Cocking, J. Draper (from 7.35 pm), C. Flack, C. Gover, Ms S. Lees, Mrs S. Reynolds, D. Symes, D. Thurston and Mrs S. West

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Rev James Menzies (Mayor's Chaplain), Cllrs. P. Kimber (Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), R. Nowak (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), PCSO Jason Milne (Dorset Police) and six members of the public.

2944 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

2945 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Margaret Leicester, Penny McCartney and Jason Webb (all Weymouth & Portland Borough Council).

2946 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

2947 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

PCSO Milne gave Sgt Yeoman's apologies. He reported that the main issue locally at present was commercial burglaries, both on the Island and in Weymouth.

Cllr. Chadwick said a friend had reported a crime on Friday, but had not received a response until the following Monday.

Cllr. Atwell mentioned that she had seen cars drag-racing in the beach car park recently. PCSO Milne said it was best to phone with the details at the time.

Cllr. Lees raised the problem of vehicles parking on the pavement along Avalanche Road. PCSO Milne affirmed that some people had been given parking tickets for this, but it would be pursued further.

Cllr. West noted similar problems in East Weare Road and asked whether the Police could give the residents there a reminder. PCSO agreed to do this and visit the area in company with Cllr. West.

Cllr. Thurston, speaking as an ex-policeman, said parking on double yellow lines or a pavement was a traffic offence. Why then were offenders not give a ticket? PCSO Milne replied that only warranted officers could issue tickets whereas PCSO's could only give a warning. Cllr. Chadwick asked why traffic wardens weren't involved. Was this a result of poor liaison between the Police and wardens?

Mrs Patterson said that stone lorries were not being sheeted again. This was noted by PCSO Milne.

b) Public Half-Hour

Mr Matthews spoke regarding the Portland Economic Vision, encouraging members to attend the workshop on the 23rd of the month. He pointed out that the newly-forming Coastal Communities Team was linked with the Vision and requested that a Council appointment to the Team be postponed until a clearer picture had emerged.

Mrs Pattison and Mr Snow both questioned the need for a new flag.

Mr Snow asked about the Borough's offer to sell the Council Offices to the Town Council and the possible ending of the agreement to house the Town Council. Cllr. Wild said informal discussions were continuing.

Mr Luther raised a health and safety concern about the pedestrian crossing by the surgery in Park Road. There is a telegraph pole very close by, which makes it difficult for someone in a wheelchair to gain access to the pavement adjacent to it. Could it be resited by two or three feet?

Mr Menzies asked concerning the Council's use of e-mail to send out its meeting agendas.

c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr. Nowak expressed pleasure that the Local Plan was now operative. On the other hand he was concerned about the Council Offices. He had conveyed the Town's recent refusal of the Borough's offer to his fellow Management Team members and it seemed the Borough was proceeding with action to sell the building, probably by auction. Since it had originally been paid for by Portlanders, at least some of the proceeds of a sale should return to the Island. Finally he requested that any victims of recent flash floods should inform him.

Cllr. Kimber spoke first on the subject of blocked drains, which he pointed out could be reported on the Dorset for You website. He reminded members that a deep clean had been carried out in Underhill last year to alleviate flooding, but there might be some drains still needing attention. He asked for the Council's help with regard to youth services. A £1m cut is planned to an annual budget of £2.2m and he is concerned about the future of Royal Manor Youth Club.

Cllr. Kimber went on to say that home visits by members of the County's Sight and Hearing Team are similarly under threat and again he would appreciate the Council's support. Asked about Foylebank he said assessments were ongoing and he would report further when they were completed.

(Cllr. Draper joined the meeting.)

Cllr. Draper reported that he had just left a meeting of the patient participation group at the Minor Injuries Unit, which he had chaired. The recruitment problems continued. With a relatively small number of minor injuries to deal with a review and consultation would be carried out shortly to seek an effective solution.

2948 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH AUGUST 2015

Minute 2930(a) (ii) – Cheyne Weares

Cllr. Gover said that Cllr. Lees should have been the member referred to. With this amendment the minutes were formally approved and signed as a correct record.
(For: 11 votes, Against: 0 votes, Abstentions: 1 vote)

2949 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

a) Minute 2931 – Town Mayor’s Announcement

Cllr. West congratulated the Mayor on the VJ Day commemoration he had been instrumental in organising. It had proved a very positive experience for servicemen and -women on the Island.

b) Minute 2937 – West Weares

Cllr. Wild said he had obtained litter-pickers and bags for the clean-up operation, which would take place on 20th September.

The Clerk verified that he had not yet checked the insurance situation for such events.

2950 – TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. Wild said local heritage groups were meeting together at the Heights Hotel on 26th October to teach Island history to would-be guides. The Merchant Navy memorial was now in place and a faculty had been applied for to site the VJ memorial in the gardens at All Saints Church.

2951 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR

There were none.

2952 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

The Clerk sought instruction from the Council on how much of the Borough election costs invoice they wished to pay. It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and

RESOLVED – that the Council pay 50% of the Borough’s invoice now and the rest in the next financial year. (10-0-1)

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices (cheque refs. 3336 - 3346) in the sum of £3,690.76 including VAT be authorised for payment, the payment to the Borough to be recorded on the October schedule. (11-0-0)

b) 2015/16 Financial Report to 31st August 2015

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted. (11-0-0)

2953 – APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

From the chair Cllr. Wild thank Cllr. Chadwick for his work this year.

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – Cllr. Sandy West be appointed Deputy Town Mayor for the remainder of the municipal year. (10-0-2)

2954 – FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Clerk apologised that a paper listing the recommended alterations and items for review had been omitted from the agenda.

It was proposed by Cllr. West and **RESOLVED** – that the item be deferred to the next meeting. (12-0-0)

2955 – COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS

a) Human Resources & IT Committee

RESOLVED – that Cllr. Cocking be appointed a member. (12-0-0)

b) Finance Working Group

RESOLVED – that Cllrs. Flack and West be appointed members. (12-0-0)

2956 – PORTLAND FLAG

Cllr. Wild reported that he had bought a flag for the Council.

It was proposed by Cllr. Thurston and **RESOLVED** – the Council buy a new Portland flag, the type and price to be determined. (8-3-1)

2957 – COMPETENT PERSON (Health & Safety)

Cllr. Lees informed members that she had requested to undertake the short health and safety course being organised locally. It was proposed by Cllr. West and **RESOLVED** – that the Council pay the cost of the course.

Cllr. Gover thought the County might provide the service required by current legislation and the Clerk was asked to confirm this.

2958 – STAFF HANDBOOK

It was proposed by Cllr. Gover and **RESOLVED** – that the draft staff handbook be accepted in total.

2959 – APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES & VOLUNTARY POSTS

The following appointments were made:-

Portland Youth & Community Management Committee	Cllr. Symes
Portland Youth Council (Deputy)	Cllr. West
Rights of Way Liaison Officer (Deputy)	Cllr. Wild
Rights Respecting Communities Steering Group	Cllr. Atwell
Weymouth & Portland Community Partnership Board	Cllr. Cocking
Coastal Communities Team	To be appointed later

2960 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

There were none.

2961 – COUNCILLORS' NEWS FROM WARDS

Cllr. Chadwick reported a spate of break-ins recently in Underhill. It appeared some vehicles were still driving from Spring Gardens into Ventnor Road, though less than previously.

Cllr. Lees said posts and rails had been erected at New Ground but some of the rails were already broken. Borough Cllr. McCartney was dealing with this.

Cllr. Flack reported that the recycling centre would be levying charges from August 2016 for bags of various material, increasing the incentive to dump rubbish.

Cllr. Wild mentioned that he had found on an old file that a vendor had been asked to leave the site after it was learned the Council would be liable for rates if he stayed. The Clerk was asked to check the situation.

2962 – COUNCILLORS’ SURGERIES

Members discussed the agenda paper. It was agreed that individual Councillors would conduct their own experiments on what seemed to work and report back in three months’ time.

2963 – EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

It was proposed from the chair 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 21 – Staff Training by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

2964 – STAFF TRAINING

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick that the Council support the Clerk undertaking CiLCA training. (11-0-1)

2965 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is due to take place on Wednesday, 14th October 2015, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

Signed Dated.....
(Chair)