

## **PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

### **ADDITIONAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2015 AT 6.45 PM IN THE PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors R. Wild (Chair), G. Chadwick, Mrs S. Cocking, C. Flack, C. Gover, Ms S. Lees, Mrs S. Reynolds, D. Symes, D. Thurston and Mrs S. West

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk), and approximately five members of the public

#### **2858 – PRAYERS**

The Clerk led the meeting in prayer.

#### **2859 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Ms J. Atwell, Miss A. Barnicoat, J. Draper and R. Hughes.

#### **2860 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **2861 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Dave Owen alleged that Cllr. Chadwick had stated on Facebook names of members who had voted and how they had voted, both incorrectly and against the manner of the vote, which actually was not recorded. This, he said, was in breach of the Data Protection Act and Cllr. Chadwick should resign.

John Thorner criticised the decision of Council to resume holding meetings at the Offices. He referred to the possibility of a bridge being built from New Road to the first floor of the Offices. With the slope of the pavement in that vicinity it would be extremely difficult for disabled people to access the bridge in the first place. He thought the Council was guilty of discriminating against people with disabilities.

Paul Snow too criticised the decision, going back on a previous agreement to meet in DDA-compliant halls. Was the decision simply to alleviate the inconveniences suffered by the Clerk in meeting away from the Offices?

#### **2862 – VENUES FOR MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEES**

Cllr. Wild in the chair opened the debate. He stressed that he had twice mentioned in the debate at the previous meeting that meetings would not be held at the Council Offices while they remained non-compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act.

Cllr. Chadwick apologised for the fact that he had made a mistake in assigning the wrong voting intentions to certain Councillors. However he stressed that he had done this on his own personal Facebook page rather than the official one of the Council.

He also drew attention to two resolutions concerning the Finances & Resources Committee and venues for meetings made incorrectly on 26<sup>th</sup> May within six months of decisions reached at the Town Council or 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and therefore contrary to Standing Orders. Therefore he and three fellow-Councillors had called the meeting and requested these decisions be looked at again.

Cllrs. Cocking and Gover urged more official control over information released to the public, though Cllr. Wild argued the difficulty of policing each of the various public IT media sites now operating.

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that (1) the Finance & Resources Committee be terminated, (2) the Town Council meet monthly and (3) the Human Resources / IT Working Group operate as a full committee until further notice.

Cllr. Chadwick requested a recorded vote. For the resolution: Cllrs. Chadwick, Cocking, Flack, Gover, Lees, Reynolds, Symes, Thurston, West and Wild (10 votes), Against: 0 votes, Abstentions: 0 votes.

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that all Council and Committee meetings be held in publicly accessible buildings under the terms of the Single Equality Act until the Council Offices are fit for purpose. For: Cllrs. Chadwick, Cocking, Flack, Gover, Lees, Reynolds, Symes, Thurston, West and Wild (10 votes), Against: 0 votes, Abstentions: 0 votes.

#### **2863 – EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick 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 the urgent additional item – Letter Concerning Former Member of the Council – by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.10 pm.

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The meeting was resumed at 9.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors R. Wild (Chair), G. Chadwick, Mrs S. Cocking, C. Flack, Ms S. Lees, Mrs S. Reynolds, D. Symes, D. Thurston and Mrs S. West

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ian Looker (Town Clerk)

#### **2864 – LETTER CONCERNING FORMER MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild that the solicitors be sent a copy of the draft statement he had written. This motion was **LOST**. (2-7-0)

It was proposed by Cllr. Chadwick and **RESOLVED** – that the solicitors be notified that the Council is seeking further legal clarification.  
(9-0-0).

**2865 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Town Council is due to take place on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.55 pm.

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