

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY 2018 AT EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL, EASTON

PRESENT: Councillors Ray Nowak (Chairman), Jo Atwell, Sue Cocking, Jim Draper, Charlie Flack, Chris Gover, Lucy Grieve, Sue Lees (from 7.10 pm), Sandra Reynolds, David Thurston, Sandy West and Rod Wild

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Dave Farmer (Mayor's Chaplain), Cllrs. Katharine Garcia (Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council) and Paul Kimber (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), together with about eighteen members of the public

3603 – CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

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

3604 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

3605 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. Kate Wheller (Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council).

3606 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman declared non-pecuniary interests on behalf of all the members of the Council in the property concerned at Agenda Item 6, the former Brackenbury Infants School, and as precept and Council Taxpayers.

3607 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

From the chair Cllr. Nowak explained why the meeting had been called. It was in order that the County Council's Property Management Board could consider the asset transfer on 15th February, prior to a meeting of its Cabinet on 7th March. If the County accepted the transfer the Town Council would then make a final decision whether to proceed with purchasing the property. Thus until then the Council's Standing Order on large budget commitments, 9(i), would not apply.

Rob Hughes requested the Chairman to defer this item on the agenda until after the public had been given more information about the project and what would be involved. Cllr. Nowak agreed to this request.

3608 – FORMER BRACKENBURY INFANTS SCHOOL

Cllr. Lucy Grieve gave a presentation on the Council's proposals. She began by explaining the acronym given to the project, BEACH, which stood for Brackenbury Education and Community Hub. She also detailed the media where the project had already been made public in the limited time available. Cllr. Grieve then went on to give the details of the project, including the financial projections. At the close of the presentation the Chairman advised the meeting that copies of the Powerpoint slides used by Cllr. Grieve in her talk could be obtained on request from the Council Offices.

3609 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Continued)

June Morley said that the decision to accept the proposal, being expensive and paid for from the precept, should be made by the residents.

Paul Snow queried the competence of the Council to handle a scheme of this size, given the history of what happened to the old Offices in Fortuneswell.

Chris Wakefield posed some questions about how the Council intended to manage the project.

Cllr. Paul Kimber identified two pressing needs on the Island, provision for the young people and care of the elderly. He asked how the community hub would be managed.

Carol Parks gave the scheme her whole-hearted support.

Rob Hughes also questioned the competence of the Council to manage the scheme and stressed the need to cover the costs involved.

An unidentified lady supported the proposals.

Cllr Nowak offered answers to the questions raised and emphasised the widespread support that had been received from both members of the public and community leaders.

3610 – FORMER BRACKENBURY INFANTS SCHOOL (Continued)

Members considered the motion on the agenda.

RESOLVED – that the council approves both the Brackenbury Infant School site Asset Transfer Business Case form and the associated business plan as presented, together with the supporting documents listed in the Business Case form, and their submission to Dorset County Council as a bid for the acquisition of the Brackenbury Infant School site.

For: Cllrs. Atwell, Cocking, Draper, Flack, Gover, Grieve, Lees, Nowak, Reynolds, Thurston, West and Wild

Against: None

Abstentions: None

3611 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will take place on Wednesday, 14th February 2018, at the Peter Trim Hall, St George’s Centre, Reforne, starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.

Signed Dated.....
(Chair)