

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH JULY 2017
IN THE PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE

PRESENT: Councillors Ray Nowak (Chairman), Jo Atwell, Susan Cocking (from 8.25 pm), Jim Draper, Charlie Flack, Chris Gover, Lucy Grieve, David Thurston, Sandy West (from 7.20 pm) and Rod Wild.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), David Farmer (Mayor's Chaplain), Cllrs. Katharine Garcia (Dorset County Council), and Paul Kimber (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), Andy Matthews (Neighbourhood Plan Working Group), two officers of Dorset Police and four members of the public.

3470 – CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

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

3471 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

3472 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Susan Cocking (early part of meeting) and Sue Lees, together with Kate Wheller (Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council.)

3473 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3474 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

Cllr. Grieve asked concerning a break-in at St. George's. The Police representative said enquiries were proceeding.

b) Public Half-Hour

Jess Nagel expressed regret about the closure of the Lloyds Bank branch and asked whether there was any possibility of a replacement being found.

Cllr. Flack said he had asked Tesco, but they had nothing planned until a possible refurbishment in five or six years' time.

Mrs Nagel also congratulated the Council for organising the Search and Rescue ceremony and associated community event, both of which she said had been very much appreciated by Islanders.

June Morley queried the planning fee being paid for the change of use application covering 52 Easton Street. From the chair Cllr. Nowak explained that this was a technical planning requirement.

Andy Matthews noted items on the agenda associated with local government reorganisation and encouraged the Council to seek funding support for the likely operational changes.

c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr. Garcia reported that she had attended a lively Grove Neighbourhood Watch meeting, when a number of issues had been raised and she would also be seeing the governor of the YOI. The Dorset Race Equality Council would be providing an article for the Free Portland News following the circulation of a letter on the Island. Cllr. Garcia also commended the County's Living and Learning project on the Island.

Cllr. Nowak felt this project had shown up a communications gap between the County and Town Council as representatives of the community, suggesting that Cllr. Garcia might encourage the County to deal more directly with the Town.

Cllr. Kimber noted that a village without a bank had succeeded in attracting a branch of the Nationwide Building Society, so he would be writing to the Society in the hope of a similar success. Regarding the community bus service he had received a letter from a resident suggesting a two or three-day service linking the remoter residential areas of the Island, which he offered to pass on to members.

Cllr. Nowak said the Borough had e-mailed him confirming the sale of plots of land as envisaged. However they had agreed to retain the car park at Park Road, as well as offering the site on Artists Row and the Lord Clyde toilets to the Town Council. He had tabled a motion at the Borough Council that action be taken to develop St. Andrew's House.

(Cllr. West joined the meeting during the above item.)

3475 – MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON 28TH JUNE 2017

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

3476 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 3461 – Grass-Cutting Contracts

Cllr. Grieve asked that the second sentence be deleted as it was not an accurate representation.

The Clerk said Cllr. Grieve and he had agreed an extension of the cutting area and an addition to the specification to include weeds on the tarmac path immediately adjacent to the land sculpture. He would notify the contractor of these and enquire of him concerning the elements as yet uncut.

3477 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN

There were none.

3478 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. Thurston added his comments on the Search and Rescue, with thanks to Stone Firms for providing the plaque and Tesco for their contribution to the ceremony. Richard Drax would be reporting back to Parliament on the proceedings.

The Ceremony of the Keys this year would probably be held at IPACA.

Cllr. Wild reminded members of the Passchendaele Centenary service on 31st July.

3479 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices (including cheque refs. 300131 - 300133) in the sum of £6,856.54 including VAT be authorised for payment.

b) 2017/18 Financial Report to 30th June 2017

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted.

3480 – EVENTS & TOURISM WORKING GROUP

Details of the Summer Fete were discussed. As it was the first time it was being held stall-holders would be asked for a donation rather than a fee.

The next Working Group meeting would be held on 25th July.

3481 – SPIRIT OF PORTLAND

It was agreed to pay £150 to advertise Spirit of Portland in the Free Portland News.

3482 – SMALL CLAIM

This item was deferred until after Agenda Item 24.

3483 – COUNCIL GRANTS, 2017/8

RESOLVED – that the alterations to the Grant Scheme recommended by the Finance Committee be accepted.

3484 – PROPOSED WEYMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

3485 – GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – that the item be deferred in order that more information and a definite proposal be provided.

3486 – JAPANESE KNOTWEED

It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – that the report be noted and a small working group produce a response to the MET Partnership recommendations for discussion at the MET meeting in September.

It was agreed the working group would comprise Cllrs. Atwell, Flack and Nowak.

3487 – DAPTC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2017

RESOLVED – that the motion be accepted as drafted, Japanese Knotweed – that the Government (1) carry out a review of the occurrence of Japanese knotweed in this country and, because of its invasive nature, (2) provide funding for public and private landowners to eradicate it from their property.

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government be asked to consider that the standard consultation period for planning applications be extended from 21 to 31 days.

3488 – PRIMARY SCHOOL IN UNDERHILL

This item was deferred until after Agenda Item 24.

3489 – OFFICE KEYS

It was proposed by Cllr. Atwell and **RESOLVED** – that any Councillor be given both the external and internal keys to the Offices if they should request them.

3490 – CiLCA QUALIFICATIONS

3491 – ASSISTANT CLERK

These items were deferred until after Agenda Item 24.

(Cllr. Cocking joined the meeting.)

3492 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

Cllr. Wild reported on a recent meeting about the care of war memorials. Grants were available for repairs but not cleaning. Cllr. Flack said he had already requested cleaning of the Portland Cenotaph via Cllr. Kimber. Cllr. Nowak undertook to prompt the Borough concerning this.

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that the responsibility of the Ancient Monuments Liaison Officer include war memorials.

Cllr. Draper raised the topic of land trusts. This would be a means for the Council to build homes on the Island. A meeting to form a land trust had been arranged for 13th September and he encouraged members to attend. Sheltered accommodation and a new care home were also possibilities through a land trust.

3493 – EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC

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 Items 13, 19, 21 and 22 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

3494 – SMALL CLAIM

It was proposed by Cllr. Nowak and **RESOLVED** – that the Council ring the Police, acquaint them with the details of the case and seek advice.

3495 – PRIMARY SCHOOL IN UNDERHILL

Cllr. Grieve acquainted members with details of the situation and possible action. It was agreed to defer further discussion to the Council meeting in September.

3496 – CiLCA QUALIFICATION

It was proposed by Cllr. Cocking and **RESOLVED** – that the matter be taken to the Finance Committee with an estimate of the likely cost involved before discussion at the September Council meeting. Any increase agreed would be backdated.

3497 – ASSISTANT CLERK

RESOLVED – that the Council appoint an Assistant Clerk on LC1 (SCP 18 – 22), initially for 10 hours per week.

For: Cllrs. Atwell, Draper, Gover, Grieve, Thurston, West and Wild.

Against: Cllrs. Cocking and Nowak.

Abstention: Cllr. Flack.

3498 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will take place on Wednesday, 20th September 2017, at Easton Methodist Church Hall, Easton starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.25 pm.

Signed Dated.....
(Chair)