

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MARINE & ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 4th DECEMBER 2013

PRESENT: Councillors R. Denton-White (Chair), Mrs S. Bradley (from 7.15pm), A. Matthews, Mrs S. Reynolds and R. Wild, together with Geoff Peters (National Coastguard Institution), and Charles Frampton and Hannah Sofaer (Portland Stone Quarry Trust)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk)

963 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. L. Ames, together with Philip George (Crown Estate), Lyn Cooch (Dorset Ranger Service), Martin Cade (Portland Bird Observatory Trust) and Sandie Wilson (Portland Port)

964 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

965 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2013

a) Minute 950 – Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Denton-White requested his name to be added to the list.

b) Minute 953(a) – Portland Bill Visitor Centre

Cllr. Matthews asked that the word “Centre” in line 6 be altered to “Bill area.”

With these amendments the minutes were formally agreed and signed as a true record.

966 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

No issues were raised.

967 – COASTGUARD AND HELICOPTER SERVICE CLOSURES

There were no reports.

968 – OLYMPIC LEGACY

Cllr. Matthews said that the Government had allocated £750,000 for health and well-being causes in Dorset.

(Cllr. Bradley joined the meeting.)

969 – GRIT BINS

The Clerk presented a report, detailing the installation of more bins on the Island and the filling of each one for the coming winter.

Provision of a reserve supply for the community bins was discussed. It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RECOMMENDED** – that the Council buy twelve bags of rock salt.

970 – TOURISM DATA

Members considered the sample data that had been sent to the Council. It was proposed by Cllr. Matthews and **RECOMMENDED** – that the Council take note of the availability of this information.

971 – DISABLED ACCESS TO PORTLAND CENOTAPH

The meeting noted the improvements that had been made. However Cllr. Matthews thought that more could be done to improve access and said Portland Community Partnership were looking to achieve this.

972 – DORSET MINERALS AND WASTE PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

The dates of the consultations were noted.

(Ms Sofaer and Mr Frampton joined the meeting at 7.30 pm.)

973 – JURASSIC COAST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Volunteers were sought to provide a response in the consultation. Cllr. Denton-White and Ms Sofaer undertook to do this, which was agreed.

974 – PORTLAND SEAFARERS' SUPPORT

Cllr. Wild presented a report on recent developments. From the chair Cllr. Denton-White asked what help the organisation required. Cllr. Wild replied that he would like to see a Seafarers' Support unit taken account of in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Port had lent them a room in the port area, but had not allowed any signs to be displayed about it, so use of the facility had been limited.

975 – ROUND THE ISLAND BUS SERVICE

Members considered the letter received from Damory Coaches. Cllr. Matthews took the view that such a service would not get the necessary support from the public. He thought there were more flexible ways of providing bus services on the Island and therefore there was a need to look at ways of connecting the popular visitor sites. A start could be made with a shuttle service between Southwell and the Bill, then adding more as required.

976 – AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)

a) Disused Quarries

Cllr. Matthews reviewed possible options: leaving them as they were, using them for housing development, conversion projects. One possibility was the Eden Project-style idea that had been mooted. Discussion of the possibilities was needed as a contribution to the Neighbourhood Plan.

b) Litter and Fly-Tipped Material

Cllr. Denton-White referred to a recent "Countryfile" television documentary on the cost of fly-tipping. He suggested seeking the help of Dorset Waste Partnership in remedying the problem.

c) Run-Down Areas

Mr Peters highlighted the unfavourable aspects of the approach to the Island and commended the efforts made to improve matters during the Olympics. Cllr Matthews said the replacement of the Homes and Communities Agency by the Land Trust offered the prospect of a change in approach.

d) Dry-Stone Walls

Mr Frampton drew attention to the problem of weeds growing on stone walls.

977 – ISSUES RAISED BY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Mr Peters said they were considering the use of solar panels at the Coastwatch station.

Ms Sofaer reported on a successful end to the Chalk and Cheese project and itemised Trust events being held in January.

978 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised members that the next meeting of the Partnership would take place at the Council Offices on Wednesday, 5th March 2014, starting at 7.00pm.

The meeting ended at 8.15 pm.

Signed..... (Chair) Date.....