

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

MARINE, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD IN PETER TRIM HALL, ST. GEORGE'S CENTRE, REFORNE ON WEDNESDAY, 6TH DECEMBER 2017

PRESENT: Councillors Sue Lees (Chairman), Jo Atwell, Jim Draper, Charlie Flack and Rod Wild, together with Cllrs. Katharine Garcia (Dorset County Council), and Paul Kimber (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), Raina Summerson (Agincare), Jane White (Court Leet and Crown Estate), Paul Glover (History Society), Andy Matthews (Portland Community Partnership), Hannah Sofaer (Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust) and Mike Deadman (Weymouth & Portland Tourist Board)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk) and one member of the public

1210 – CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Cllr. Lees welcomed all to the Partnership meeting and gave fire safety directions.

1211 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Susan Cocking and Lucy Grieve, together with Geoff Peters (National Coastwatch Institution), Sandie Wilson (Portland Port) and Peter Allam (Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy)

1212 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Lees declared a pecuniary interest in the Chesil Equestrian Centre and Mr Matthews non-pecuniary interests in Weymouth College and the MEMO project.

1213 – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2017

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

1214 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

2115 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr. Kimber announced a public meeting to discuss the new local railway timetable.

Paul Glover expressed concern about fly-tipping at St. George's. Cllr. Flack said Dorset Waste Partnership were willing to collect such rubbish if advised.

1216 – PORTLAND ECONOMIC VISION

Raina Summerson described the recent work of the Vision Board. One emphasis had been to try to orientate the skills of young people on the Island to the needs of local employers. The Board was also investigating the economic possibilities that would arise from major new developments on Portland.

Paul Glover drew attention to the increasing tourism activity and tourists indicating they would make return visits to the Island.

Miss Summerson also mentioned meetings with tour companies, particularly discussing local tourism opportunities among people who had not committed themselves by advance bookings.

Andy Matthews thought more emphasis should be laid on the Island's level of deprivation in order to secure more financial support.

A member of the public, Chris Wakefield, mentioned the possibility of creating a Portland app. As with many IT functions keeping the information on the app up-to-date was an issue.

Cllr. Draper asked about the Vision Board's targets. Miss Summerson said these could be viewed on the Portland Community Partnership website.

1217 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Andy Matthews said the Plan had now reached the informal consultation stage on the draft of the intended Plan. The hope was to obtain the views of as many residents as possible, partly to avoid the possibility of fresh issues being raised at the last minute.

1218 – JURASSIC COAST HIGHWAY

Cllr. Flack advised members of the Council's response to the Chickerell consultation on the highway. The Island had a long-standing problem with its single road access from the mainland and a fundamental transport review was needed to assess the problems in the locality.

1219 – PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Andy Matthews outlined the unfortunate loss of the map supplied to the County which he had to resend. The South West Coast Path Team had been seeking funding for the Merchants' Incline. Some of the issues had been included in the Neighbourhood Plan. He hoped there would be discussion of the proposals with the County shortly.

Cllr. Lees asked about the footpath from the dockyard along the old railway line which had been blocked with a fence. Who could remove the obstacle? Mr Matthews said it had been shown on the footpaths map as an aspiration to bridge this missing link.

Cllr. Kimber queried whether one of the Borough's practical "Walking for Health" courses might be held on the Island.

1220 – BROWN-TAILED TUSSOCK MOTHS

Cllr. Wild reported that publicity for an autumn cull of the moths had appeared in both the Echo and Free Portland news. Unfortunately this initiative had been undermined by a Borough Councillor advising the use of a professional pest controller.

Cllr. Garcia said there were areas near the Atlantic Academy that had not been treated.

1221 – PORTLAND RESILIENCE PLAN

Cllr. Wild commended the value of having a resilience plan. The Council's new Assistant Clerk would be updating the plan for the Island, which would then be published on the Council website.

1222 – STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS (by exception)

b) Litter and Fly-Tipped Material

Cllr. Flack commended the use of the My Street app for dealing with fly-tipping. He had helped a resident recently to take photographs and give a grid reference with it to send to Dorset Waste Partnership, who had then removed the rubbish. The My Council app was mentioned as an alternative.

d) Open Spaces, Hedgerows, Footpaths and Dry-Stone Walls

A dry-stone wall had been damaged on Weston Road from Pound Piece.

1223 – TOURISM (additional item)

Mike Deadman gave an update on various issues. Jurassica had merged with the MEMO project to become The Journey.

1224 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 28th February 2018, starting at 7.00 pm, to be held at Peter Trim Hall, St. George's Centre, Reforne.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

Signed (Chair) Date