

Notes of MET March 1st

Present

Cllr Sue Lees - Cllr David Thurston – Cllr Rod Wild – Cllr Jo Atwell – Cllr Jim Draper - Cllr Susan Cocking – Cllr Charlie Flack – Cllr Ray Nowak

Leo Henley Lock , DWT , Peter Allum , WPNSA , Jen Reeves Gray ,AGINCARE , Stephen George, D-DAY Centre , Jane White ,Court Leet , Phillip George , Crown Estate/ Court Leet , Seb Brooke , MEMO, Andy Mathews , PCP, Hanna Sofaer , PSQT

Apologies – Cllr Sandra Reynolds

Chair welcome – Cllr Sue Lees apologised for the slight delay and was unsure why the Town Clerk was not at the meeting but suggested we have the presentation from MEMO and deal with reports and updates as best we can .

MEMO

Seb Brookes said that despite there being a lull in information in the public domain of recent behind the scenes the project was moving on . This was now in its 10th year as a project from conception but its all about finding the best options , the funding and the best people to help make it come together and that can take time , so he was not disappointed or disheartened of how MEMO was progressing .

Recent developments mean that there could be a first stage opening as soon as 2019 . The major difference being that they now had the option to move MEMO to the Jordan Mine workings , this would save the cost of building the proposed tower , give an all-weather facility . The interior of the mine would give a huge 30 foot high canvass for direct carvings, displays and high tech visuals . Initially it would be just a small part of the mine used by MEMO but with the potential of expanding .

It was estimated 325k of visitors per year , which would create 79 fte employed on site , which would indirectly support 1000 jobs and many local companies , creating a 24M impact .

“This tiny Island telling the biggest story of all “

General discussion was supportive , there were questions about the impact of the number of visitors and the traffic etc Seb pointed out that studies of other attractions showed the average was 3.1 persons per car , so its not 325k cars plus Portland has an excellent bus service and they hope to promote its use to access MEMO . It was mentioned that the Island has experienced higher car capacity for events at National Sailing Academy, b- Side and the Olympics , the difference was they were short period rather than all year . Seb said that they would be mindful of key times and the opening times would not clash with the school run or travel to work/ home.

Neighbourhood Plan

Jim Draper And Andy Mathews updated progress on NP – all the updates will be added to the Website shortly , detailed discussion next week , Heritage Character assessment . Working Group March 8th .

Overgrown roadside vegetation

Sue Lees reported , a number of owners had assisted with cutting back scrub etc and DWT have just done Wide St.

Pebbles Signage

Andy Mathews reported that there would be informative leaflets and displays to get younger people interested / involved

Broadband

Peter Allam reported a new cabinet should be operating to support Osprey area shortly

Palm Trees

Rod Wild reported that the offer of Palm Trees had been directed towards Victoria Gardens to consider

Finger Posts

Phillip George that Court Leet were restoring, via a specialist voluntary group , the Weston Street sign . The signs for Southwell and Easton Garden were still missing.

Dog Waste Bags

Sue Lees advised the cost of purchase of dispensers and bags . 10 bins £74 each ,1600 bags £325 . That permission would be required from DWP to attach the dispensers. Scheme like this had worked in Cornwall and Norfolk. General discussion, concluded that dog poo and litter was an on-going problem but there was concern that the bags would just be taken. That maybe *PTC could reconsider a volunteer training scheme but that had previously been rejected as it was considered difficult to ask people to take on such a role without any legal enforcement.*

It was agreed that the Town Clerk should write to WPBC asking that the new task force Wardens should include Portland and not just the town centre of Weymouth.

South Dorset Local Action Group

Spring Forum 7th March , South Dorset LAG had assisted with funding at Whitestones and PSQT

Litter / Flytipping

Noted Cheyne House , across the road and the entrance to to the Path were once again looking bad and needed action

Town Clerk to enquire of DWP if they will still offer Skips to formal orgained litter picks and what arrangement they could offer if we just do light litter picks can we use the HRC to dispose of the rubbish

Run Down Area

It was asked what was happening re High Street

Ray Nowak reported that No 11 had at last been compulsory purchased by WPBC , that there were on-going discussions of a potential development on the property and adjoining site . WPBC had agreed a budget so it was now about sealing the terms with a local builder . This had taken 4 years to deal with the compulsory purchase made more complex due to the death of the owner .

Jen Reeves Gray , raised concern of the state of the Jolly Sailor pub at Castletown

It was noted that the Advertising Hoardings at Victoria Gardens and the one in Fortuenswell had their appeal refused so these will have to come down . PTC had pressed for removal for some time .

Verne Common

The project to enhance the common land will require some fencing to hold the goats / sheep . This will be a significant enhancement to the area and will engage with the local community via virtual shepherds.

Footpaths

Sue Cocking mentioned footpath of Weston Rd , access was being blocked , this followed use by some trial bikers

- Watery Lane still a problem and even more so with lots more children using to go to school
- Merchants Incline , constant litter problem
- *Suggested invite to David Ackerly / Dawn Aitkens to give a talk*
- Dry Stone walls around the Windmills development were not using Portland stone , we need to make the point at future planning applications that such walls should be stipulated as Portland stone
- Sue Lees reminded all that Chicken Flu was a serious issues and we should all be reminding poultry owners to lock the birds up at night . That a note should also go on the PTC Wed site

Cycle Path

Jim Draper suggested that a working group will be dealing with possible funding for a Cycle Path and could *Cycle Path be added to the regular agenda updates etc – Agreed*

D-Day Centre

Opening 23th March , all welcome . The planning permission had been given for the 6 concrete manikins to be installed on the Cassion

PSQT

Hanah reported that funding had been achieved for the Memory Stones , and the first stage of the installation will be late March a formal celebration event will take place in June

PTC / Royal Manor Field

Ray reported that DCC had offered PTC the lease on Royal Manor School Field for the next 35 years , so it will remain as open space . This will give PTC the opportunity to create Events to offset the costs of grass cutting and maintenance etc.

Meeting closed at 9.15

ITALICISED

Need follow –up from Town Clerk

Ray Nowak (Cllr)