

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER 2017 IN EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL, EASTON

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Dave Farmer (Mayor's Chaplain), Councillors Katharine Garcia (Dorset County Council) and Paul Kimber (Weymouth & Portland Borough Council), PCSO Graeme Williams (Dorset Police), Andy Matthews (Neighbourhood Plan Working Group) and five members of the public.

3555 – CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

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

3556 – PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain led the meeting in prayer.

3557 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

3558 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3559 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

PCSO Williams reported that of late anti-social behaviour and vehicle crime had reduced.

Cllr. West enquired whether action could be taken concerning a scaffolding lorry parked in obstructive locations in East Weares. PCSO Williams undertook to monitor this.

Cllr. Lees asked concerning hang-gliding regulations in view of a dangerous incident she had witnessed near the Cenotaph. PCSO Williams thought it not a policing matter as such, but rather an aviation health and safety issue.

Cllr. Lees also raised on behalf of a resident the matter of vehicles parking on the dropped kerb by Hull, Gregson and Hull, thus making it difficult for mobility scooters to cross the road there. PCSO Williams noted this.

Cllr. Flack reported both on unsheeted lorries shedding part of their loads recently and rough sleepers in King Barrow. Again, PCSO Williams promised to investigate.

b) Public Half-Hour

Phil Tysoe expressed concerns about recent helicopter activity from the base on the Island. Since much of it involved training flights close to the base this was causing much more nuisance to the public than those of the search and rescue service and raised several health, safety and anti-social issues.

Cllr. Nowak said that neither planning permission nor aviation regulations certification had been granted. He and Cllr. Kimber would be pursuing this to a conclusion.

c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr. Garcia referred to the timetable for reorganisation in Dorset, which was becoming tight, and the possibility of a pedestrian crossing in Easton Lane, which was due to be discussed at the Town's Planning meeting the following week.

Cllr. Kimber spoke concerning the new helicopter arrangement and the problem of fumes it was generating. He also requested public assistance with a consultation on the local rail service to London. This was being cut to one service per hour and he saw a threat to the local economy as a result of this.

Cllr. West reported that a licence had been granted to a shop in Castletown. She had attended the latest Borough Planning Committee meeting and voted against the proposed housing scheme at Underhill Junior School, which was passed by one vote.

Answering a question from Cllr. Grieve, Cllr. Nowak said a full terrier of the Borough's property holding on the Island had been requested.

3560 – MINUTES

a) Town Council Meeting, 18th October 2017

b) Extraordinary Town Council Meeting, 25th October 2017

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

3561 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Minute 3534 – Living and Learning Project

Cllr. Flack said he and Cllr. Wild had met County officers about the Royal Manor site. They had asked the County to consider the building of a community hub on an area within the site affected by mineral rights.

b) Minute 3548 – West Weares Grass-Cutting

Cllr. Wild suggested that the working party would meet on 7th January outside Quiddles at 10.30 am, if wet on 14th January, to be advertised in the Free Portland News.

RESOLVED – that the working party meet as suggested.

3562 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN

There were none.

3563 – TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. Flack detailed recent civic functions he had attended.

3564 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

RESOLVED – that the schedule of invoices, less the payments to Turrell Ltd and West Dorset District Council, (including cheque refs. 300140 – 300143) in the sum of £7,059.21 including VAT be authorised for payment.

b) 2017/18 Financial Report to 31st October 2017

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted.

3565 – FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, 1ST NOVEMBER 2017

a) Small Claim

It was proposed by Cllr. Gover and **RESOLVED** – that the outstanding debt be reviewed on the first anniversary.

b) Budget, 2017/18

RESOLVED – that £1,600 be vired from Contingencies to a new category, HR Support.

c) Budget, 2018/19

RESOLVED – that £1,600 be transferred from Contingencies to HR Support (new).

d) Budget, 2018/19

RESOLVED – that Council reviews the presentation of budget reports and delegates the Finance Committee to consider and present a report on this.

e) Artist Row and Lord Clyde

RESOLVED – that the Council accept the Borough Council offer of ownership, Lord Clyde either as a store alone or as combined toilets and car park.

3566 – EVENTS WORKING GROUP MEETING, 31ST OCTOBER 2017

Cllr. Wild confirmed that the date of Portland Sparkle would be 15th December, starting at 5.00 pm. It would be advertised in the Free Portland News.

Cllr. Lees agreed to lead the organisation of the 2018 Summer Fete, to take place on 28th July or, if wet, 11th August.

3567 – CHESIL PARKING WORKING GROUP MEETING, 11TH OCTOBER 2017

Council discussed the Working Group's recommendations.

RESOLVED – (1) that the Council request the Borough Council to make the Masonic car park free and (2) that the other recommendations be accepted as guidance.

It was further agreed that Cllr. Grieve would draft the letter of request, to be approved by the Chairman and Mayor.

3568 – DORSET COUNCIL REORGANISATION

Cllr. Nowak observed that reorganisation now looked likely to go ahead. He gave members a report of a meeting with the Borough the previous day, where the Town Council had outlined its wishes – to take on more services, but with matching income streams to provide the funding. The Borough had agreed to provide detailed costings of the various elements involved in time for the next meeting on 3rd February. It was anticipated that the precept for Weymouth would be around £150 for 2019/20.

3569 – REVIEW OF COUNCIL SERVICES AND STRATEGY

RESOLVED – that the Aims and Objectives detailed in the discussion document to the agenda item be accepted, subject to an amended version of one objective, "Pursue loan funding and proceeding with the acquisition of Council Offices."

3570 – BUDGET AND PRECEPT, 2018/19

The agenda item report had been omitted from the meeting papers.

3571 – RISK ASSESSMENT, 2017/18

In the absence of a guidance report this was merely noted.

3572 – KING BARROW

The occurrence of rough sleepers there was noted. Cllr. Nowak suggested agencies to contact in the event of this being repeated.

3573 – GROVE TELEPHONE KIOSK

The Friends of St. Peter’s wanted to use the kiosk for an information point.

RESOLVED – that the Council go ahead with the purchase of the kiosk by the Clifton Hotel.

3574 – SAN MAURO, ITALY

The Council acknowledged its interest in the twinning approach from San Mauro’s council and would consider it more fully at a later date. However the with the current organisational and financial uncertainty it could not commit to a definite arrangement at present. The Clerk was asked to notify San Mauro to that effect.

3575 – BUS SHELTERS

RESOLVED – that the Council support a temporary sound installation at six bus stops during the B-Side festival.

3576 – ATLANTIC ACADEMY

It was agreed that Cllrs. Gover, Grieve and Nowak would draft a response to the Academy’s consultation document, requesting a public meeting and circulate it to the other members.

3577 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

The written reports were accepted.

3578 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will take place on Wednesday, 17th January 2018, at Peter Trim Hall, St. George’s Centre, Reforne starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.25 pm.

Signed Dated.....
(Chair)