

PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH OCTOBER 2017 IN EASTON METHODIST CHURCH HALL, EASTON

PRESENT: Councillors Ray Nowak (Chairman), Jo Atwell, Susan Cocking, Jim Draper, Charlie Flack, Chris Gover, Sue Lees (from 7.10 pm), Sandra Reynolds, David Thurston, Sandy West and Rod Wild.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ian Looker (Town Clerk), Janet Guy (Easton Methodist Church), Roger Sewill and Mark Osborne (Dorset County Council), PC Mike Holman (Dorset Police), Andy Matthews (Neighbourhood Plan Working Group) and two members of the public.

3529 – CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME

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

3530 – PRAYERS

Janet Guy led the meeting in prayer.

3531 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr. Lucy Grieve and Dave Farmer (Mayor’s Chaplain).

3532 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Nowak declared a non-pecuniary interest in Island of Portland Heritage Trust and Portland Museum Trust and Cllr. Thurston likewise in Portland Sea Cadets.

3533 – OPEN FORUM

a) Police Question Time

PC Holman reported that the crime wave on the Island involving motorbikes had ceased. Current issues included vehicles broken into, scrap metal theft and anti-social behaviour.

(Cllr. Lees joined the meeting.)

Cllr. Nowak asked about issues associated with a rave at Tout Quarry, Cllr. West about hate crime on the Island and Cllr. Lees the presence of camper vans at Cheyne Weares. Linked with the last enquiry PC Holman advised of the appointment of a littering officer at Weymouth.

Cllr. Flack raised queries about a car crashing into a dry-stone wall on Weston Road and the reinstatement of a zebra crossing by the Royal British Legion building in Underhill.

3534 – LIVING AND LEARNING PROJECT

Roger Sewill of the team involved in the project gave members a presentation. It had started out as a scheme to reduce the County Council’s property portfolio and thereby reduce operating costs. In particular the project had focussed on six towns, which included Portland. As far as the Island was concerned the NHS seemed to be

taking the lead role in defining property needs. Recently attention had been drawn to the usefulness of the Royal Manor site, not least as possible premises for the Town Council.

3535 – OPEN FORUM

b) Public Half-Hour

Martin Luther thanked the Council for its involvement in widening access to the crossing in Park Road. He drew attention to the unevenness at New Ground, which made wheelchair use difficult. Cllr. Nowak offered to speak to the Borough parking briefholder about it.

Rob Hughes had several questions about the 2017/18 Budget item, urging Council to keep the precept increase to a minimum.

Mr Matthews pointed out that economic improvement was an underemphasised component of the Living and Learning project.

c) Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Borough members had little to report.

3536 – MINUTES

a) Town Council Meeting, 20th September 2017

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

b) Finance Committee Meeting, 4th October 2017

The minutes were noted.

3537 – MINUTE UPDATE AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 3512 (a) – Japanese Knotweed

The working group had not yet met.

3538 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIRMAN

Cllr. Draper reported receiving a letter about banking services from the Post Office. The latter had negotiated with some of the banks to enable it to supply some of the services previously only obtainable from the banks.

3539 – ACTING TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. Flack said he had received two letters of thanks to the Council for its involvement in them being awarded the Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service.

He advised of the Remembrance Service on 12th November, mustering at 10.30 am and the Civic Carol Service on 10th December, 6.30 pm at Easton Methodist Church. Stuart Cave, the Town Crier, is currently out of action. The postponed Ceremony of the Keys will now take place in March with next year's in the following September as usual.

3540 – TOWN MAYOR, 2017/18

RESOLVED – that Cllr. Charlie Flack be elected Town Mayor of Portland to serve for the remainder of the municipal year.

RESOLVED – that Cllr. Rod Wild be elected Deputy Town Mayor.

Both Councillors made the statutory declarations of acceptance of office and were invested with the emblems of office.

3541 – ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY AWARD

Item withdrawn.

3542 – FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments for Authorisation

RESOLVED – that the donation to Royal British Legion be £50 and the payment to the Borough for work at a community garden be deleted, to be made instead by the garden trustees.

RESOLVED – that the amended schedule of invoices (including cheque refs. 300137 – 300139) in the sum of £6,989.40 including VAT be authorised for payment.

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

RESOLVED – that the report be accepted.

c) External Audit, 2016/17

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

3543 – REVIEW OF COUNCIL SERVICES AND STRATEGY

Cllr. Draper presented his paper for discussion, inviting comments with a view to bringing firm proposals to the November meeting.

3544 – BUDGET, 2018/19

Cllr. Cocking presented the Finance Committee's proposed figures and requested comment from members by the end of October.

3545 – CIVIC EVENTS

a) Events Programme, 2018/19

The list provided in the agenda report was considered without making any changes.

3546 – VOLUNTEER CENTRE DORSET

RESOLVED – that the Council donate £50 to the Centre.

3547 – COUNCIL GRANTS, 2017/18

RESOLVED – that Council accept the Finance Committee's recommendations of grant payments.

3548 – WEST WEARES GRASS-CUTTING

Cllr. Cocking reported on the proposals to improve the overall look of the site. The Clerk explained that variations had been made to the contract after consultation with members. The contractor had been invited to submit revisions to his contract prices, but instead had suggested a site meeting between his representatives and the Clerk as project officer. The quotation had followed from their discussions.

It was proposed by Cllr. Wild and **RESOLVED** – that it would be desirable to remove the scrub and carry out the other tasks listed in the quotations.

Cllr. Nowak suggested that the Council organise a volunteer's day to clear the scrub etc. He proposed and it was **RESOLVED** – that the Events Committee look at the

activities involved in conducting such a voluntary event and report back to Council.

3549 – SMALL CLAIM

Cllr. Flack advised that the Council had applied for a warrant in pursuit of the claim.

3550 – DAPTC AGM

RESOLVED – that the Council’s representatives act as follows:-

Motion 1 (Deregistration of bus routes) – Listen to the debate and vote according to their appraisal of the arguments put forward.

Motion 2 – (District council responses to parish planning application objections) – Support.

Motion 3 (Action on parish polls) – As Motion 1.

Motion 4 (Tree planning applications) – As Motion 1.

3551 – EVENTS WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED – that the Council organise this year’s Island Christmas event on 15th December, to be titled and advertised as “Portland Sparkle.”

RESOLVED – that the Council purchase the six items listed in the Working Group report at an estimated combined cost of £1,180.

3552 – VACANCIES

RESOLVED – that following appointments be made:-

a) Staffing Committee – Cllr. Cocking

b) Events and Tourism Working Group – Cllr. Flack

c) Quarries Liaison Committee – Cllr. Reynolds

d) Living and Learning – Cllr. Gover

and that Portland Quarry Parks Forum be deleted from the Council’s Outside Bodies list.

3553 – REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND VOLUNTARY POSTS

There were none.

3554 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will take place on Wednesday, 15th November 2017, at Easton Methodist Church Hall, Easton starting at 7.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.45 pm.

Signed Dated.....
(Chair)