



Minutes of the Meeting 9th November 2010

The Shaftesbury Hall, Masonic Buildings, Victoria Square, Portland

1) Apologies

Gillian Phillips, Rachel Barton, Neil Lemon, Lesley Chandler, Jane Fooks, Michael Thresh, Myra Laming, Angie Mustoe.

2) Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th September 2010

These were accepted as a true record.

3) Matters Arising from the Minutes

The new skatepark was now ready and is being used. The formal opening is set for Saturday 13th November 2010.

4) Groups/Organisations Presentations

Introduction

Phil Laming welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologized for the late change of venue and explained that he had hoped that representatives would have had chance to get together after their presentations over a drink in the Heights bar.

Phil explained that the main purpose of the meeting was to share the aims and aspirations of the groups attending. The Portland Community Partnership had been set up 9 years ago to be a voice for the community. Over that 9 years a number of groups had also been formed and many of these groups appeared to have overlapping plans. It was felt timely to ask groups to meet so that together we could have a stronger voice, potentially clearer aspirations and be able to improve working with statutory bodies at a time that there is likely to be less resources. Phil then considered ways we could achieve this, for example by having an overall plan/shopping list, networking, sharing and understanding each other's issues and supporting one another by working on joint funding bids or projects and

coordinating work. Ultimately it was about improving communications between us and it was hoped that this meeting would be a good start to that process.

Phil reminded the meeting that he intended to step down at the next AGM and that the purpose and direction of the PCP could change but he will still offer his support and advice.

The Rotary Club - Julia Lunn

Website: <http://www.portlandrotary.org.uk/>

Email: see web

Tel no: see web

Julia explained that the Rotary on Portland started in 1975 and currently has 25 members and that their aim is to support the communities both locally and in times of crisis internationally e.g. the organising a collection for the victims of the Haitian earthquake. Locally they regularly run a table top sale event at the Community 2000 hall and this allows local groups to receive an income. For instance the Rotary will be supporting Island Play on Saturday 13th November 2010. Rotary has helped the Revive group at their Halloween event by providing marquees and marshals. This Christmas they will be again organising Santa's sledge which travels around the Island. The Rotary would like to recruit more people to our group particular those of a younger age! Other groups that Rotary worked with as well as Iplay and Revive are Community 2000, Portland Museum, Friends of Victoria Gardens, Chesil Community Group, Rights Respecting Communities.

Revive Portland Delivery Group – Mark Jackson and Yvonne Beven

Website: www.reviveportland.com

Email: see web

Tel no: see web

Mark introduced details of the group's logo and website and he explained that the group had been formed to try to deliver the wishes expressed by residents at the Ideas shop established for several weeks in Fortuneswell in spring 2009, which the PCP had supported. Several hundred wishes had been summarised into about ten themes and these were listed on the sheet which Yvonne had circulated. The shop was funded by the Changing Places initiative and the group had acquired the Inspire mark which allowed access to Olympic sponsors. However this also meant that when holding an event it was difficult to access local sponsors and so the group now had agreement that we could run events sponsored locally as long as it did not display the Inspire logo. Mark went on to explain about activities the group had supported many working with other local groups and agencies. Examples were the Street dance group and a number of Skatefest events at Osprey Quay and Islanders Club for Young People whilst the new Skatepark was being built. The group had also organised two very successful Halloween events at the Portland Marina in 2009 and 2010. It has also helped ten young people from Royal Manor School access sail training in conjunction with a tall ship charity and it was hoped that this

would become an annual event. Yvonne continued that although the group only had six main members the ethos was to work as much as possible with others and other community groups and to date this included PCP, Rotary, DCC extended services, Synergy Housing, Islanders, Island Play ,ICA and the Rights Respecting group. We had also been very successful in gaining support from local businesses and the Weymouth and Portland Partnership. The Changing Places project has been highlighted as one of good practice and although the current view was that there would be little or no Olympic funding the group were aware that there was soon to be a meeting when Olympic sponsors would possibly indicate what they would like to support, so fingers crossed. A main request from the Ideas shop was to see a reinstatement of the Skatepark and it was therefore very good news that this was to be formally opened on the 13th November 2010.

Island Community Action (ICA) – Anita Busby Wilcocks

Website

Email

Tel no

Anita introduced herself as a trustee of ICA which currently runs on a volunteer basis and was originally formed 11 years ago under the title Island Volunteers For You (IVY). The group acts as a conduit for volunteers to work with vulnerable groups in particular those isolated or disabled who had difficulty in getting out or accessing services. The group run a community car and organise events bingo, quiz nights and clubs such as the Get Together Club which meets on Thursdays at the YMCA and offers a seated keep fit session followed by a social activity. The group has a shop/office in Easton. We also organise a Seniors Christmas Lunch which is becoming very popular and this year will be at the Lobster Pot. The group is mainly funded by donations and our own fund raising including funding bids. We recently were successful on obtaining a Big Lottery award for just under £200k which will provide funding for a new 8 seater vehicle with disabled access which will replace the Portland Minibus as well as allow us to offer a wider range of services including a Memory Cafe and memory boxes working with the Alzheimers society. The group would like to increase the numbers of our volunteers and this funding would allow us to employ a manager. We already are working with a number of groups represented Liz Duckworth is on the Rights Respecting group and works with Revive.

Liz then went on to explain about projects one with the Rights Respecting group providing a visual display of community links and good work in schools and also reminded everyone about the Easton Promise event on the 10th December 2010.

Isle of Portland Heritage Trust – Philip Traves

Website www.stgeorgesreforne.co.uk/

Email stgeorgescentre@googlemail.com

Tel no: 823406

Philip introduced the trust and explained that it is based at the old St Georges school at Reforne which had closed in 1969. Following an appeal of 'buy a brick for £25' in 1981 the centre was saved and reopened in 1982. The building was still in a poor state but over the years through various means, including income from lettings, the site has been improved. It currently holds the Skylark studio, Royal Manor Workshops and Arts centre and exhibitions. Groups using the premises include the Portland WI and the Brownies. The craft workshops help local small businesses. Local archive records including birth and death information are held and we have visitors from all around the world tracing their family records using this resource. Open internet access is available on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. We have recently transcribed the Free Portland News of the last 25 years and are currently transcribing the log books of the old St Georges school which provide a fascinating narrative. Jan Phillips is the centre manager and we are keen to encourage bookings and use of the centre for functions. The largest cost remains the upkeep of the premises but we see the centre as a resource for the people of Portland. An open day is held on St Georges Day and we are keen to encourage people to come to this to see what the centre offers.

Rights Respecting Community- Roy Pepperell

Email portlandrrc@gmail.com

Roy explained that the group had been formed in support of the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools initiative. Essentially it aspires to further develop constructive relationships between schools and the community and vice versa, with a focus on the rights and responsibilities of our Children and Young People. The long term aim is to help ensure the concept becomes embedded within the Schools and the wider community and as such the group has been prudent in how it has moved forward. Often it requires a core change in the way we think for such an agenda to find full support and communities need to feel confident that existing social concerns are in essence created by only a very small minority.

To raise the agenda's profile Karen Griffiths from DCC extended services is planning to organise a training session in the New Year with representatives from the Schools, community and speakers from UNICEF UK and DCC. This will help clarify how we can all help to move the programme forward.

Current examples of what the community is developing includes the setting up of an electronic display screen in the ICA window to help celebrate good news and achievement from our schools, our young people and our community organisations. Also Portland Museum is running an outreach programme with School groups tied to our local history and the House and Home elements of the national curriculum.

Roy also wanted to draw everyone's attention to the campaign to improve the broadband connectivity to the Island as this would be of enormous benefit to our young people and the community. Details shown at

www.bt.com/racetoinfinity

Portland Gas Trust

Website : www.theportlandgatrust.org/ContentPages/Home.aspx

Due to work commitments Rachel was unable to attend but had advised the meeting that information about the Trusts work is set out on its website (see above) .

Churches Work in The Community – Chris Briggs – Methodist Minister

Website <http://www.weymouthandportlandchurch.org/>

Email chris@briggsworld.co.uk

Tel no 01305 820489

Chris introduced himself as the Methodist Minister based at Easton and Underhill. Although the presentation specifically made reference to the Youth work that his church was involved with he explained that he wanted to outline the wider role of all the churches and the wider community work that is undertaken. All the Churches on Portland work together as the Churches Together On Portland and a similar, but more loosely based, association covers the Weymouth and Portland area. The traditional role of a minister had expanded to include all sorts of additional responsibilities arising out of legislation, e.g., child protection and health and safety. In addition he is Chaplain to the Mayors of Weymouth and Portland, Royal Manor Arts College, to the Police and previously to the YOI. He also sat on a number of advisory groups for instance the Teenage Pregnancy Board this being a particular area of concern on the Island. The role of the church in working with both voluntary and statutory bodies had not changed though and the underlying messages of God's love and love your neighbour manifested themselves in today terms of working for social cohesion/social capital and building the community in a good way.

With regard to Youth work there are currently two youth workers who are employed by the Methodist Church which also has a Children's Worker. In addition Chris also chairs The Drop In Management Committee, which is a multi agency provision . Three part time youth workers are to be employed at The Drop In with funding secured by Children in Need.

A current project has been the appointment of a co-ordinator who will draw together the work of the churches in preparation for the 2012 Olympic games.

Narrowing the Gap Project – Andy Matthews and Julia Willoughby

Website

Email : JuliaWilloughby@weymouth.gov.uk

Tel no 01305 838265

Andy Matthews explained that the intention of this project was to look at ways that statutory agencies together with community and voluntary groups could work more effectively in the four areas of

Weymouth and Portland recognised as suffering particular disadvantage. The project had evolved over the last year and the PCP had been asked for a representative to sit on the steering group to assist with community aspects of the project. Andy had produced updating information reports about the project and these were available. The project had now reached an important phase with agreed sub projects being identified. Julia Willoughby, the Communities Manager from WPBC, then went on to explain why the project was important by illustrating some of the demographic issues which had been identified. For instance a man in the Underhill area is statistically shown to expect a reduced life span of 8 years compared with other areas or an increased likelihood of young people not involved in education or training. Julia circulated a briefing note about the project which covered the way in which the project had been formed and the process of taking it forward.

The steering group had agreed to put forward the following sub projects:-

- Increase numbers engaged in community and voluntary groups,
- Reduce numbers of young people not in Education or Training,
- Reduce numbers subject to fuel poverty,
- Enable those on disability benefits to return to work,
- Reduce excess drinking.

The project period will last initially three years. Approval for this has been agreed by WPBC and DCC Cabinet. The sub projects will be managed by the Weymouth and Portland Partnership with an appropriate theme group addressing a these e.g the Health theme group have taken responsibility for the last two listed. There were significant opportunities to link up these sub projects for instance increasing the opportunities for training could be linked to improvements in reducing fuel poverty.

Andy then concluded that it was important to support the project because it presented a continued opportunity to focus on the Underhill area (including after the Olympics) and with clever thinking this could easily be linked to other developments for instance with our schools and the environment. In a time of reduced resources then this may be helpful although we will have to be careful that this focus is well co-ordinated. The role of the PCP may therefore have to change once the management of projects becomes clearer.

Portland Carers-Joanna Pearce

Website

Email: joannapearce@mypostoffice.co.uk

Tel no: 826479

Jo explained that the Carers Group had started 3 years ago with small beginnings following a carer's course run by the St John's Ambulance. With Partnership for Older People's funding (POPS) a group was formed with an initial meeting at the Community 2000 hall in Jan 2008. Currently there are 40 members. Following a lot of negotiation the group now meets at the Tophill doctor's surgery in the Education room free of charge. The group offer an opportunity to discuss issues and support each

other. Visiting speakers and training courses are also arranged with St Johns Ambulance in particular. Jo stated that 'for so many carers, there is a feeling of isolation and their circumstances can result in a lack of communication and this is where groups like ours can be of help. We have all been through it and by meeting once a month we can offer each other support, discuss problems, suggest solutions and help each other to enjoy a couple of hours of relaxation.'

Jo said that she had learnt more in the last 3 years than the previous 19 acting as a carer. Funding is always a problem and a particular issue at the moment is finding some funding to allow the carers to enjoy a day out together. Jo is concerned about threats to the continued opening of the Fairfield day centre as it provides a valuable respite for those caring and to lose or reduce this would have a terrible impact. Lobbying was continuing and she had been on Radio Solent that morning, she was also arranging to meet with Richard Drax as it is easy to overlook that carers save the Government over £87 billion a year.

(Post Script – Update received from Jo after this meeting:-

Jo advised that she had had a positive meeting with Richard Drax and that he would be taking her concerns forward).

Island Play – Debbie Smith and Karen Wiedenbruch

Website www.islandplay.org.uk

Email info@islandplay.org.uk or debbie@rock-cottage.co.uk

Tel no 07817 305197

Debbie explained that Island Play or iPlay started in 2008 following a consultation event at the Community 2000 Hall organised by the schools on Portland which involved children, parents, Head Teachers and others asking questions about what could be improved on the Island for children and young people. Many asked for more activities and a group of 6 parents and volunteers decided to try and move things forward. The group has assisted a group of young people in a successful bid from the Youth Opportunity Fund which enabled them to refurbish and buy new equipment for the Upstairs Room at the Youth Club and has also donated funding to PUYFC for the purchase of First Aid Kits and to Grove Infant School to help fund their KS1 Outdoor Classroom.

A bid for funding to improve the Southwell Play area under the Dorset Children's Fund had been submitted but this was unsuccessful and we lost out to a Dorset Community Action project, Play on Portland. However earlier this year this funding was coming to an end and we were asked to take over the project and were kindly offered their equipment. At the same time we secured support from a Comma/ACRE bid and the Hall & Woodhouse Community Chest which has allowed us to expand our activities over the summer with up to 100 children attending themed play and arts/crafts sessions in play areas around the island. We have worked closely with Lyn Cooch arranging some sessions themed round wildlife and nature. We also organised a group on the Island Clean Up with prizes awarded for the best sculpture made from the collected rubbish. We recently also supported the

Halloween event by offering a series of craft activities. On 26th November we will be holding an event at the West Weares/Underhill Junior School with an art and craft and wildlife theme.

It is hoped that we will be able to organise more themed activities in conjunction with other groups and individuals, particularly projects involving Wildlife on Portland. We are looking at making a bid from the Big Lottery Go Wild funding stream. To date we have been concentrating on the 5 to 13 age range but we want to widen this to 0-19, even 0-21. Obviously the older age group can be particularly difficult to address with regard to their activity needs. We would like to explore the opportunity of working with Chris Briggs and the Methodist Youth Project. We have worked with a number of groups represented here and are keen to widen this.

Our equipment is stored at the Southwell Business Park and we are currently looking for alternative storage, including parking for our transit van, with an offer that we would be willing to share this in return.

Debbie went on to explain that the group has a website and pages on both Twitter (@iplayportland) and Facebook (Island Play) and that it would be very useful to have links from the PCP website.

Portland History Group- Jean Taylor

Jean advised the meeting that the group operates from the Portland Centre in Fortuneswell. They research Portland history and produce leaflets and information for instance they had recently undertaken research on the way utilities had come to the Island and on churches on the Island. The group had produced leaflets on historical walks including Chiswell, Castletown, Church Ope and Rufus Castle.

Osprey Leisure Centre- Nigel Williams

Website: www.ospreyleisure.co.uk

Email: info@ospreyleisure.co.uk

Tel no: 824378

Nigel explained that the centre was a charity committed to offering facilities to the community. It was a difficult assessment when setting charges to balance the need to provide for running the centre against offering charges which are not a barrier to the community using the facilities. The facilities were set up for the Navy and includes a swimming pool with deep water throughout which adds to the utility bills, currently £75k per annum. With letters of support from the community the centre has recently been successful in securing grant funding to look at introducing more efficient utility cost arrangements. We have also sought grant funding on behalf of users of the centre for instance to install a pool hoist to improve access.

The centre is there for the community and is always willing to discuss group's needs. For instance we have the storage to accommodate a minibus per Debbie's previous request.

Portland United Youth FC- David Symes

Website: www.puyfc.co.uk

Email: see website

Tel no: see website

The presentation was given by David Symes chair of the club. The club was registered with the FA as a charter standard club which recognised that it had in place all appropriate measures to safeguard the children and young people taking part as well as the conduct of parents and supporters. The intention of the club is to provide a safe and sporting activity which promotes health and well being and team building. Like any club we are short of volunteers to help us. The club started in 2002 with 8/9 children at the Grove and has grown to over 140 (10/11 teams) taking part every weekend age range is 6-18. The young people come from every school on the Island and we are open to all. Although there is a subscription charge they try to keep this as low as possible. If this still proves financially difficult, for anyone, then the committee has the power to review this. We are linked to Portland United FC and we have sponsorship. We are trying to raise awareness of the club as we attended a recent Town Council meeting and a number of councillors were unaware of the extent of what we are doing. We have worked with Iplay and the Rotary. We have started running a competition in August which last year attracted 52 teams from across Dorset and we see opportunities to expand this into a community event.

The club would like to own their own pitch and land but if we do we will be required to maintain the fence around this. It is anticipated that we could do this if we could have support from the community perhaps on an annual event to help repair it. We would also like to acquire and own our own floodlights. Currently we are paying up to £200 a week in indoor venues. David explained that it is our philosophy not to accept second best and we want to give the young people on Portland the best we can.

Dorset Police – Neil Wood

Website : www.dorset.police.uk/default.aspx?page=897

Email: see website

Tel no: see website

Neil introduced himself at the Sergeant in charge of the Safer Neighbourhood Team for Portland. His current focus is to bear down on anti social behaviour which has become the main concern of the community, together with linked issues around drugs and drug trafficking. He understands that the local media hasn't always been helpful in putting the level of crime in context, for instance his team has arrested eight 15-21 year olds 24 times in the last few months. He agreed with Roy Pepperell that it is a small minority which are causing problems. The Police are working with other agencies for example with the NHS to provide a dedicated drug support worker for Portland and also with the Housing Associations who can benefit from less vandalism. He explained that he is keen to work with

community groups but have to be realistic with striking a balance between dealing with issues and attending meetings. Neil confirmed that the police are happy however to commit to presenting to the PCP group on a regular basis. The Police like other services are facing budgetary pressures and he could not commit to providing additional officers. What has been negotiated recently is on Fridays and Saturdays to divert some officers from Weymouth Town Centre in the early evening and this provides additional cover at a time which has been identified when problems can occur. Hopefully by deploying our resources more effectively we can address this anti social problem.

Conclusion

Phil thanked all the representatives and hoped that his opening remarks would be helpful. The Community partnership was set up to be open to all and that it is your forum to take forward and to use.

5) Treasurers and Secretary's Reports

No items to report.

6) AOB

There was no any other business.

7) Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy at 7pm on the 11th January 2011.