

Minutes of the Meeting of the **BOAT PARK COMMITTEE** held at the **Town Hall** on **Friday, 9th June 2006** at **2.15 p.m.**

Present: -

Councillor C.R. Bright (Until 3.10 p.m.)
Councillor Mrs. J. Farrow
Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh
Councillor M. Pratt
Councillor M. Tyrer

Also in attendance: -

Dr M. Ayres	Assistant Town Clerk
Mrs. A. Holmes	Tourist Information Centre Manager
Mr. A. Lander	Swanage Fishermen's Association
Mr. R. Johnson	Boat Park Users Group Representative
Mr. M Leach	Boat Park Attendant

1) **Appointment of Chairman**

In the absence of the Town Mayor, it was AGREED:-

That Councillor Pratt be appointed Chairman of the Meeting.

Councillor Pratt assumed the Chair.

2) **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from the Town Mayor and Councillor Audley.

3) **Review of Minutes of Meeting held on 31st March 2006**

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2006 were noted as agreed.

Arising from Minute No. 5, Councillor Tyrer enquired whether a response had yet been received from the District Engineer of Purbeck District Council, and it was AGREED:-

That the Chairman would pursue this matter.

Mr. Lander enquired whether any progress had been made with regard to the issuing of stickers to fishermen for display on their dinghies, and was informed that the matter had not yet been actioned due to the unprecedented workload of the administrative staff.

4) **Appointment of Boat Park Users' Representative**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Russ Johnson to the Meeting as the official representative of the Boat Park Users Group.

5) **Boat Park Rules and Regulations**

Consideration was given to the Rules and Regulations applicable to the Swanage Boat Park and Slipway (copies having been circulated to all Members of the Committee prior to the Meeting).

Following detailed consideration, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Rules and Regulations be adopted, subject to No. 6.1 being amended to read:-

“Any accident or injury occurring within the Boat Park (including the slipway) must be reported to the attendant or Tourist Information Centre, and recorded in an accident book.

A copy of the amended Rules and Regulations attached to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

During the discussion, concern was expressed regarding the use of personal water craft that were not registered within the Datatag system, but it was acknowledged that the Council had no jurisdiction over such craft if they were not using the Council’s facilities. In order to discourage this irresponsible behaviour, it was AGREED:-

To recommend that a letter be sent to the operator of the water sports facilities at Ocean Bay enquiring whether he discouraged the launching of unregistered water craft from this area.

Councillor Bright enquired whether the Rules and Regulations were prominently displayed at the Boat Park, and it was AGREED:-

That additional notices be displayed, and that separate notices showing the hours of launching also be erected.

Councillor Bright also enquired whether it would be viable to install a ticket machine at the Boat Park to allow for payment of the launching fees when the Boat Park was unattended, but this was not considered feasible due to the impracticalities of displaying the tickets.

6) **Any Other Matters**

Councillor Bright referred to a question raised at the Annual Parish Assembly and enquired whether all the spaces at the Boat Park had been allocated. He was informed by Mrs. Holmes, the Boat Park Administrator, that currently nine spaces were unoccupied, of which seven spaces had been offered to prospective users and two had been reserved for weekly letting. Currently, 17 people were on the waiting list for spaces when they become available.

Councillor Bright thanked Mrs. Holmes for the information provided and requested that updated information be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

Mr. Geoff Brookes enquired whether there was still a requirement to allocate an area on The Downs for overspill trailer parking during busy periods.

Following discussion, it was AGREED:-

That the fishermen’s car park could be utilized for this purpose, if necessary, instead of using the Downs.

Mr. Lander drew attention to the seaweed and debris that had accumulated near the clock tower, and, as this was a popular footpath, enquired whether the area could be cleared.

It was AGREED:-

That this matter be delegated to the Council's Operations Manager to investigate and to take any appropriate action.

7) **Exclusion of Press and Public**

It was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, and RESOLVED:-

That, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following matters.

8) **Proposed Legal Action - Update**

The Assistant Town Clerk provided a brief update regarding continued anti-social behaviour at the Boat Park, and advice received from the Council's legal advisers.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Tyrer, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the person concerned be banned from the Council's Boat Park and any equipment removed from the area.

9) **Fishermen's Huts**

The Assistant Town Clerk sought clarification regarding the allocation of fishermen's huts, and Members confirmed that any hut that becomes vacant should be offered in the first instance to bona fide fishermen on the waiting list.

10) **Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting had been set for 9.30 a.m. on Friday, 15th September 2006.

The meeting concluded at 3.30 p.m.
