

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage  
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on  
**MONDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2005** at 7.25 p.m.

PRESENT: -

Councillor A.H. Miller (Town Mayor) – Chairman.

Councillor H.J.F. Agelink  
Councillor Mrs. C.A. Bartlett  
Councillor C.R. Bright  
Councillor Mrs. J.A. Farrow  
Councillor Mrs. C Gainsborough  
Councillor Mrs. H. O'Donovan  
Councillor G.M. Suttle  
Councillor W.S. Trite  
Councillor M.A. Tyrer  
Councillor Mrs. J.D. Wheeldon

In the absence of a clergyman, Councillor Bright offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

163. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was presented on behalf of Councillor Pratt. Councillor Bright reported that Councillor Pratt had felt unwell and had been admitted to Poole Hospital shortly before the commencement of the Meeting. Members conveyed their good wishes for a speedy recovery.

164. **MINUTES**

(a) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss planning and other matters on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Agelink, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed.

165. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

That the notes on the Public Participation Time held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2005 be accepted.

Arising from the above, Councillor Bright referred to the discussion regarding the proposed introduction of “wheelie bins”, and wished it to be recorded that Town Councillors, who were also members of Purbeck District Council, had registered their concern at the unsightly appearance and impracticalities of such bins in the town centre, when the matter had been considered at Purbeck District Council.

166. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had no specific announcements to make this month, but reported that the contractors had started drilling exploratory holes along the beach in connection with the Beach Recharge Scheme.

167. **TOURISM REPORT**

The Tourist Information Centre Manager reported on the following matters:-

- (a) Footfall figures at the Tourist Information Centre were slightly down overall compared with the previous year.
- (b) Enquiries for accommodation at Easter were fairly slow at the present time, but were expected to increase with the prospect of a good weather forecast.
- (c) Preparations were going well for the impending opening of Beach Gardens. It was intended that the kiosk would be more tourism-related, with general information being widely available and the promotion of local attractions through publicity leaflets etc. Visitor numbers would be monitored to assist with more targeted marketing in the future.
- (d) Staff at the Tourist Information Centre were working closely with the Reception staff at the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park to supply publicity and information leaflets promoting the refurbished facilities at the Holiday Park and general tourist attractions throughout the area.

168. **HOLIDAY PARK REPORT**

The Holiday Park General Manager reported on the following matters:-

- (a) The new reception area was now fully open and many favourable comments were being received.
- (b) At present, 41 letting units were available, representing a total of 976 weeks available to let. The Town Council’s own letting fleet had been upgraded, with new carpets, curtains and blinds having been installed. The Caravan Park was fully booked for the Easter period.
- (c) To date, 78% of the site fees for 2005/06 had been collected.
- (d) The new Swanage Bay View Restaurant was scheduled to open the following evening, and approximately 30 advance bookings had already been received. The facilities were being widely advertised this week in the Swanage & District Advertiser, together with details of the “Pub Naming Competition” for the upstairs bar.

- (e) Refurbishment works to the upstairs bar were almost completed, and the facilities would be re-opening on Good Friday.
- (f) Finally, the General Manager expressed his appreciation of the sterling work undertaken by the Council's Operations Department which had enabled the completion target to be achieved.

169. **OPERATIONS REPORT**

In the absence of the Operations Manager, the Town Clerk reported on the following matters:-

- (a) The Council's Operations Department had worked tirelessly at the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park to comply with the requirements of the Fire Officer on the granting of the licence for the upstairs bar. He also expressed his appreciation of the work and efforts afforded by the Operations Department.
- (b) The town had recently suffered from a spate of vandalism, but he was confident that this problem would shortly be resolved.

170. **LICENCES**

Before consideration of the licensing matters, Councillor Suttle declared a prejudicial interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being Vice Chairman of the Purbeck District Council's Licensing Committee, and left the Meeting during the discussion.

(a) **The Royal Oak**

A Notice of Application for the transfer of the Justices' Licence in respect of the Royal Oak was submitted for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, and RESOLVED:-

That no objection be raised to the transfer of the Licence.

(b) **Units 1 – 7, Ocean Bay**

Further to Minute No. 119 (c) of the Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2004, the Clerk reported that a full licence had been granted, in principle, for Units 1 – 7, Ocean Bay.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs. O'Donovan and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett:-

That no objection be raised to the granting of the Final Order and Children's Certificate for Units 1 – 7 Ocean Bay.

Upon being put to the Meeting, FIVE Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition, THREE Members voted AGAINST, and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

(c) **Gee Whites, The Quay**

Further to Minute No. 3 (a) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2005, the Clerk reported on further information received regarding the granting of a Restaurant Licence in respect of Gee Whites, The Quay.

It was noted that providing the recommendations of the Fire Officer were adhered to, and the personal references of the applicant were satisfactory, no objection to the granting of the licence would be upheld.

171. **HERSTON READING ROOM**

A letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 2005 was submitted from Revd John Wood informing Members that the term of office of the trustees nominated by the Town Council to serve on the Herston Reading Room Fund Charity had expired some time ago, and inviting the appointment of two replacement trustees.

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

That Councillor Bright be nominated as a  
Town Council representative on the Herston  
Reading Room Charity.

It was further proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Agelink, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That Councillor Mrs. Bartlett be nominated as a  
Town Council representative on the Herston  
Reading Room Charity.

During the discussion, it was noted that the appointments had been invited for a two year and a four year period, but as the election of both Councillors would terminate in May 2007, it was considered that the current appointments of the Trustees should be for a two year period only.

172. **BOWLING GREEN, BEACH GARDENS**

A letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> March 2005 was submitted from the Secretary of Swanage Bowling Club requesting permission to hold the Opening Match of the season on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2005, and requesting the use of the Bowling Green on 29 additional days for matches. Exclusive use of the Green on Club nights was requested, also the use of the Pavilion for a Coffee Morning on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2005.

Following a brief discussion, during which Members were mindful that the facilities should be available for use by the general public, it was proposed by Councillor Suttle, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, and RESOLVED:-

That the requests be granted.

173. **ADVERTISING SIGN**

Before consideration of this matter, Councillor Suttle declared a prejudicial interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of his business interests, and left the Meeting during the discussion.

Further to Minute No. 11 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2005, details of the advertising sign and proposed location were submitted from Swanage Chamber of Trade and Commerce for consideration.

During the ensuing discussion, Councillor Bright enquired whether the information on the map could be amended, if necessary, and was given an assurance that the information would be updated on a regular basis.

Concern was expressed by Councillor Mrs. O'Donovan at the erection of an 8' x 4' sign in Gilbert Road. She was informed that this was considered to be an appropriate location, bearing in mind the loading and unloading of coach passengers in this vicinity.

It was proposed by Councillor Bright and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon:-

That the sign and proposed location in Gilbert Road be approved.

Upon being put to the Meeting, NINE Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Proposition and there were TWO ABSTENTIONS, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

174. **RECYCLING FACILITIES**

The Clerk reported on negotiations with Purbeck District Council for the provision of additional recycling facilities.

Consideration was given to the possible siting of the bottle bank at the Holiday Park, but whilst the importance of recycling by caravan owners was acknowledged, concern was expressed at the noise and appearance of providing these facilities in this location.

Reference was made to previous discussions (See Minute No.9 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2004) when a possible site had been identified, and it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To recommend that the bottle bank be sited on Town Council-owned land outside of the Civic Amenity site.

The Town Mayor then referred to the temporary arrangements operated during the 2004 summer season, whereby three additional “wheelie bins” had been provided in the Town Square to address the litter problem in this area. He reported that these arrangements had now been superseded by an offer received from Purbeck District Council to provide three additional large bins on a permanent basis, which would be emptied regularly several times a day in accordance with the refuse collection programme.

175. **ANY OTHER MATTERS WHICH THE TOWN MAYOR DECIDES ARE URGENT**

(a) **Alcohol Byelaw**

A letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> March 2005 was submitted from the Wareham, Swanage & District LVA, expressing concern at the proposal for the introduction of a byelaw, covering the whole of the parish of Swanage, which would prohibit the consumption of alcohol in public places. The comments were noted.

(b) **Civic Service 2005**

In response to a letter received from Revd John Wood, it was AGREED:-  
That the Civic Service be held on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2005 at 3.00 p.m. at St. Mary’s Parish Church.

176. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of February 2005 were submitted for information.

177. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Agelink, and  
RESOLVED:-

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer  
Nos. 12, 12a and 12b, amounting to £439,597.11,  
£21,556.37 and £123,292.42 respectively be paid,  
and that cheques be drawn therefor.

178. **STATEMENT OF CASH BALANCE**

The Clerk submitted a statement of cash balance as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2005  
(copies having been circulated to all Councillors), a copy attached at end of these  
Minutes.

Councillor Bright enquired as to the Council's current level of borrowing  
and was assured by the Clerk that the current balance reflected the short-term  
borrowing for cash flow purposes only.

179. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough,  
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  
items.

180. **SWANAGE BAY VIEW HOLIDAY PARK**

The Clerk reported on the need for an improved fire security system at the  
Swanage Bay View Holiday Park in order to comply with the requirements of the  
Fire Officer. He explained the inadequacies of the present system, and having  
regard to the urgency of the matter, it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To waive Standing Orders and approve the  
installation of a fire security system by ADT  
Fire & Security at a cost of £7,925.00 plus VAT.

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