

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER 2005 at 7.15 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 M.W. Pratt

Councillor G.M. Suttle

Councillor M.A. Tyrer

(Until 7.50 p.m.)

Councillor Mrs. J.D. Wheeldon

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

Before conducting the business on the Agenda, the Town Mayor was delighted to report on the town's success in the Southern England in Bloom Competition, and presented the Silver Award in the "Best Coastal Resorts" category to Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, Chairman of the Swanage in Bloom Committee. In accepting the Award on behalf of the town, Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough expressed her appreciation of the sterling work undertaken by the Town Council's Operations Department in achieving such high standards throughout the town, and then referred to a Best Environmental Award that had been given to Durlston Country Park. This Award was accepted by Mr. Robin Plowman on behalf of the staff at Durlston Country Park and the residents of the town.

67. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. O'Donovan and Trite.

68. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held
on 22nd August 2005 be approved as a correct record
and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Agelink, and
RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
Council held to discuss planning and other matters
on 9th September 2005 be approved as a correct record
and signed.

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

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 12th September 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to inclusion in Minute No. 4 of the following wording:-

“Councillor Bright enquired as to whether further consideration would be given to this matter as part of a new Best Value process, and it was agreed that this would be considered as an agenda item at a future meeting.”

- (d) Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, and
RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matter on 19th September 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed.

69. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

That the notes on the Public Participation Time held on 22nd August 2005 be accepted.

70. **BEACH GARDENS BEST VALUE REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and
RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Gardens Best Value Review Working Group held on 17th August 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed.

71. **CAR PARKS BEST VALUE REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

Proposed by Councillor Tyrer, seconded by Councillor Bright, and
RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Car Parks Best Value Review Working Group held on 17th August 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed.

72. **BEACH GARDENS BEST VALUE REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, and
RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Gardens Best Value Review Working Group held on 7th September 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed.

73. **CARAVAN PARK COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Farrow, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Caravan Park Committee held on 12th September 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed.

74. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a) The Town Mayor reported that with effect from 3rd October 2005 the section of the High Street between Kings Road East and Court Road would be closed to traffic for resurfacing works to be carried out. It was anticipated that the works would take approximately two weeks to complete, but during that time, vehicular access would be available between the hours of 4.30 p.m. and 9.30 a.m.

The Mayor explained that planings from the road surface could be made available for the Town Council's use, but it would be necessary to obtain an Exemption Certificate from the Environment Agency.

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

That an Exemption Certificate be obtained, at a cost of approximately £545.00.

(b) The Town Mayor referred to the Swanage Beach Recharge Scheme, and was delighted to report that, following lengthy negotiations, 100% funding would be provided by DEFRA (approximately £2.4 million). This would mean that the cost of the Scheme would not have to be borne by local Council tax payers.

75. **TOURISM REPORT**

In the absence of the Tourist Information Centre Manager, Mrs. Caroline Hooper, a newly-appointed member of the TIC staff, reported on the following matters:-

(a) Despite the inclement weather, the recent Swanage Folk Festival had once again proved a very popular and successful event.

(b) Footfall figures at the Tourist Information Centre during August were approximately 2000 visitors up on August 2005.

(c) The "Waverley" paddle steamer had again proved popular with both residents and visitors alike, with most trips being fully booked.

(d) The 9th Purbeck Film Festival was scheduled to be held during the period 14th to 29th October at the Lookout at Durlston, and programmes and tickets were available from the Tourist Information Centre.

(e) Finally, "Cards for Good Causes" charity Christmas cards would be on sale at the Tourist Information Centre from 30th September 2005.

76. **HOLIDAY PARK REPORT**

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

- (a) As previously reported, the Swanage Bay View Restaurant would remain closed for the winter period.
- (b) Caravan sales were still extremely buoyant - sales having reached the target for the year during the first six months of trading.
- (c) The Quarryman had also had a successful year to date, and had already exceeded income received during the financial year 2004/05.
- (d) The “4 Tick” status for the Holiday Park had now been officially confirmed by the English Tourism Council.
- (e) Bookings for the Holiday Park homes had been strong during the summer season, and the Park was fully booked for the autumn half-term school holiday period.
- (f) Works to upgrade the water supply at the Holiday Park had now recommenced, and it was intended to renew a further 20% of the pipework during the forthcoming winter period.

77. **OPERATIONS REPORT**

In the absence of the Operations Manager, there were no general matters to report.

78. **REQUEST FOR USE OF COUNCIL CHAMBER**

The Clerk reported on a verbal request received from the Swanage Youth Centre requesting permission for the use of the Council Chamber for a “Youth Council Meeting” on one evening during the week commencing 17th October 2005.

Following a brief discussion, during which some concern was expressed at security arrangements within the Town Hall during evening meetings, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the request be granted, subject to suitable security arrangements being provided by the Town Hall staff.

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

(a) **Accommodation**

The Clerk reported on a verbal request received for the provision of a meeting room for the support group of victims of domestic violence. Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Bartlett, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the request be agreed, in principle.

(b) **Car Parking Arrangements**

Further to Minute No. 5 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 19th September 2005, consideration was given to a request received from

the Swanage & District Chamber of Trade and Commerce that car parking charges be suspended in the town centre car parks in the run-up to Christmas to encourage people to shop locally.

During the ensuing discussion, Members readily agreed that the suspension of car parking charges would be beneficial to the traders in the town, and it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Farrow:-

That free parking be made available in Broad Road and North Beach Car Parks on Saturdays, 26th November, and 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th December 2005.

An AMENDMENT was moved by Councillor Bright:-

That free parking also be made available in Main Beach Car Park on the above dates.

This Amendment failed to secure a seconder.

A FURTHER AMENDMENT was then moved by Councillor Suttle and seconded by Councillor Pratt:-

That free parking be made available in Broad Road and North Beach Car Parks on Saturdays, 26th November, and 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th December and Friday, 23rd December 2005.

Upon being put to the Meeting, the Amendment was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY.

(c) **Eddie Corben Commemoration**

A letter was submitted on behalf of the Rotary Club of Swanage and Purbeck expressing their wish to erect a suitable memorial in commemoration of Eddie Corben, and seeking the Council's views on the proposal for the installation of an orientation platform on a plinth and suitable sites that may be available.

During the ensuing discussion, Members expressed some reservations regarding the form of memorial suggested, and it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED:-

That the matter be agreed in principle, but deferred pending further information as to the type of memorial and suitable siting.

80. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

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

81. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED:-

That the accounts specified in the Orders on Treasurer Nos. 6, 6a and 6b, amounting to £218,411.37, £72,084.51 and £156,831.89 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefore.

82. **STATEMENT OF CASH BALANCE**

The Clerk submitted a statement of cash balance as at 31st August 2005 (copies having been circulated to all Councillors), a copy attached at the end of these Minutes.

83. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Suttle, 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.

84. **STORAGE FACILITIES**

Before consideration of this matter, Councillors Bright and Mrs. Wheeldon declared their interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being members of the Planning Board of Purbeck District Council. They remained in the Meeting during the debate, but did not vote on the matter.

Further to Minute No. 12 (b) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 19th September 2005, the Clerk reported on discussions held with the lessee of the Santa Fe Amusement Park regarding storage facilities for the Santa Fe equipment.

During the ensuing discussion, the need for temporary storage facilities was acknowledged, and it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That permission be granted for the introduction of a temporary container for use as a storage facility at the Santa Fe Amusement Park (colour to be approved when installed).

85. **STAFFING ISSUES**

Further to Minute No. 11 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 19th September 2005, the Clerk reported on advice received from the Council's legal advisers regarding staffing issues, and the financial implications that may be applicable.

The Clerk also reported on outstanding financial commitments relating to the Bay View Restaurant, including staff agency fees and bar stock, and the position was noted.

86. **TOILETS – CLEANING CONTRACT**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Suttle declared his interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of his business association with the contractor, and left the Meeting during the debate.

Further to Minute No. 12 (c), the Clerk reported on discussion held with Mr. D. Elliott regarding the Heads of Terms for the toilet cleaning contract.

It was noted that the Heads of Terms had been agreed in principle, and it was RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred to enable further details to be determined by the Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon and the Town Clerk.

87. **LEASE – ICE CREAM KIOSK**

The Clerk reported on the current position regarding the lease of the ice cream concession on Shore Road in the vicinity of Victoria Avenue, and an offer received for the 2006 summer season from the previous lessee.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That the matter be deferred, pending legal advice from the Council's solicitors.
