# Minutes of the Meeting of the **GENERAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2010**at **9.30 a.m**.

Chairman: -

Councillor L Gloyn-Cox Swanage Town Council

Present: -

Councillor B AudleySwanage Town CouncilCouncillor C BrightSwanage Town CouncilCouncillor S PoultneySwanage Town CouncilCouncillor W TriteSwanage Town Council

(from 9.55 a.m.)

Also present: -

Dr M Ayres Town Clerk

Mr G Brookes Operations Manager
Mrs C Anstey Administrative Assistant

Mr R Aplin Prospect Allotment Association

(until 9.55 a.m.)

Mr L Fletcher James Smith Ltd Funeral Directors

(until 10.35 a.m.)

Mr A Lander Swanage Fishermen's Association

(until 12 noon)

Mr R Legg Prospect Allotment Association

(until 9.55 a.m.)

# **Public Participation Time**

In addition to Members and Officers there was one member of the public present.

# 1. Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs Marsh and Mrs Patrick.

## 2. Allotment Matters

## a) Search for additional/alternative allotment land – Progress report.

It was reported that little progress had been made with assessing the land South of Swanage Bay Holiday Park with regard to its suitability as allotments. The Chairman of the Allotment Association enquired if the need for more land was appropriate at the present time. It was noted that the waiting list was now shorter than in previous years and plots had been turned down by several people when offered. It was RESOLVED:

That officers write to everyone on the waiting list to ascertain how many are still interested in taking a plot. If no response to the letter is received then the name will be removed from the waiting list.

Further to item 3)b) of the Meeting of the General Operations Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010 it was AGREED:

That the working party of Councillors Audley and Poultney and a

representative of the Allotment Association together with officers, attend a site meeting at Prospect Nursery to discuss using the site for raised beds and small plots as an alternative way to reduce the waiting list.

# b) Scale of Charges 2011/12 - Allotments.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Audley and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

# TO RECOMMEND:

That the following scale of charges be considered further during the budget setting for the 2011/12 financial year.

	Proposed	<b>Proposed Charges</b>	
	(Incl. VAT@		
	20%)	(Excl. VAT)	
	£	£	
Prospect (per rod)	5.80	5.80	
Refundable deposit to deter neglect	50.00	50.00	
(agreed at Allotments Best Value Review Working C	Group 15/11/2006 minut	te 4)ii))	

## c) Matters raised by Prospect Allotment Association

# i) Fence on eastern allotment boundary

The Chairman of the Allotment Association enquired as to the progress regarding the fence on the boundary of Cauldron Barn Farm. It was reported that officers had written to the owner outlining problems caused by the lack of fencing but to date no response had been received. It was RESOLVED:

That officers write again to the owner of Cauldron Barn Farm and that the Operations Manager liaise with the estate foreman of Cauldron Barn Farm to seek a way forward.

#### ii)Troughs

Thanks were given to the Operations Manager for the installation of water troughs at the allotments. Positive comments had been received by the Association from allotment holders.

#### iii)Theft

It was reported that allotment holders had experienced theft of their produce, particularly in the months of July and August. It was noted that the Association had advised that any theft must be reported to the police to be logged as a crime. It was AGREED:

That Councillor Patrick take this matter to a future P.A.C.T meeting and the Council's Enforcement Officers ensure that a regular inspection is maintained at Prospect Allotments as a deterrent.

## 3. Cemetery Matters

# a) Natural Burial Ground at Godlingston Cemetery - Progress report.

It was reported that the planning application for the natural burial ground had been temporarily withdrawn due to a technical detail. However, it was hoped that the plans would be re-submitted early in 2011. It was noted that an enhanced Natural Burial Ground Scheme could be treated as a capital project. After a brief discussion it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Bright and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That an enhanced Natural Burial Ground scheme be taken to a future Finance and Performance Committee Meeting as part of the Capital Programme.

## b) Scale of Charges 2011/12 - Cemeteries

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Poultney and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

## TO RECOMMEND:

That the following scale of charges be considered further during the budget setting for the 2011/12 financial year.

Cremation Plot for burial of cremated remains in casket or urn.  (i) Interment Fees - for burial of casket or urn in plot 2' x 2':  (a) first interment  (b) for each additional interment  (c) for interments on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays additional to above  (Excl. VAT)  (Figure 1		Proposed Charges (Incl. VAT @	
Garden of Rest  Cremation Plot for burial of cremated remains in casket or urn.  (i) Interment Fees - for burial of casket or urn in plot 2' x 2':  (a) first interment 130.00 130.00  (b) for each additional interment 130.00 130.00  (to 4 interments)  (c) for interments on Saturdays, Sundays and 140.00 140.00		20%)	(Excl. VAT)
Cremation Plot for burial of cremated remains in casket or urn.  (i) Interment Fees - for burial of casket or urn in plot 2' x 2':  (a) first interment 130.00 130.00  (b) for each additional interment 130.00 130.00  (to 4 interments)  (c) for interments on Saturdays, Sundays and 140.00 140.00		£	£
(i) Interment Fees - for burial of casket or urn in plot 2' x 2':  (a) first interment 130.00 130.00  (b) for each additional interment 130.00 130.00  (to 4 interments)  (c) for interments on Saturdays, Sundays and 140.00 140.00	Garden of Rest		
(a) first interment 130.00 130.00 (b) for each additional interment 130.00 130.00 (to 4 interments) (c) for interments on Saturdays, Sundays and 140.00 140.00	Cremation Plot for burial of cremated remains in casket or	urn.	
(b) for each additional interment 130.00 130.00 (to 4 interments) (c) for interments on Saturdays, Sundays and 140.00 140.00	(i) Interment Fees - for burial of casket or urn in plot 2' x 2	2':	
(to 4 interments) (c) for interments on Saturdays, Sundays and 140.00 140.00	(a) first interment	130.00	130.00
(c) for interments on Saturdays, Sundays and 140.00 140.00	(b) for each additional interment	130.00	130.00
(1) 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	(to 4 interments)		
Public Holidays additional to above	(c) for interments on Saturdays, Sundays and	140.00	140.00
	Public Holidays additional to above		
including the period between Christmas	including the period between Christmas		
Eve and New Year's Day	Eve and New Year's Day		
(ii) Exclusive Rights - for grant of right of 265.00 265.00	(ii) Exclusive Rights - for grant of right of	265.00	265.00
burial for a period of one hundred years	burial for a period of one hundred years		
(each space in this section)	(each space in this section)		
(iii) Memorials 145.00 145.00	(iii) Memorials	145.00	145.00
(iv) Fee for persons not resident in the parish within	(iv) Fee for persons not resident in the parish within		
the last 10 years - Minute 7) Policy & Resources	the last 10 years - Minute 7) Policy & Resources		
Meeting 21st May 2007 As above x 2	Meeting 21st May 2007	As above x 2	
Earthen Graves	Earthen Graves		
(i) Interment Fees - for body of	(i) Interment Fees - for body of		
(a) child whose age at time of	(a) child whose age at time of		
death did not exceed THREE years in	death did not exceed THREE years in		
a grave not exceeding in depth:	a grave not exceeding in depth:		
7 feet (2 interment) 70.00 70.00	7 feet (2 interment)	70.00	70.00
(b) person whose age at time of death	(b) person whose age at time of death		
exceeded THREE years in a grave	exceeded THREE years in a grave		
not exceeding in depth:	not exceeding in depth:		
7 feet (2 interments) 295.00 295.00	7 feet (2 interments)	295.00	295.00

Casket-type coffin	430.00	430.00
(c) for interments on Saturdays Sundays and		
Public Holidays - additional to the above	330.00	330.00
including the period between Christmas		
Eve and New Year's Day		
Note		
Where the bodies of a still-born and/or other person are b	buried in the same grave	
at the same time the fees shall be related to the first inter-	ment.	
(ii) Exclusive Rights - for the grant of right		
of burial for a period of one hundred years		
each space in:		
Section A	430.00	430.00
Section B	355.00	355.00
Children's Section	70.00	70.00
(iii) Fee for persons not resident in the parish within	, 0.00	70.00
the last 10 years - Minute 7) Policy & Resources		
Meeting 21st May 2007	As above x 2	
<b>Brick Graves or Vaults</b>		
(i) Right to construct (including grant of right.of burial the	nerein for a period	
of one hundred years) on each space:		
Section A	2,335.00	2,335.00
Section B	2,070.00	2,070.00
(ii) First Interment	1,430.00	1,430.00
(iii) Re-opening	1,430.00	1,430.00
(iv) For interment Saturdays Sundays and	715.00	715.00
Public Holidays - additional to the above		
including the period between Christmas Eve		
and New Year's Day		
(v) Fee for persons not resident in the parish within		
the last 10 years - Minute 7) Policy & Resources	A 1	
Meeting 21st May 2007	As above x 2	
Monuments, Gravestones & Inscriptions		
(i) Headstone, Cross or other Memorial	145.00	145.00
when erected not exceeding 3ft, in height		
(ii) Monument not exceeding 6' in height	465.00	465.00
covering the whole grave space		
7' x 3' when erected	4.47.00	4.47.00
(iii) Footstone not exceeding 2'6" x 2'6" x 6"	145.00	145.00
(iv) Flatstone not exceeding 7' x 3'x 6"	245.00	245.00
(v) Vase not exceeding 12" in height	35.00	35.00
(vi) Any other memorial not referred to above	By Agreement	22.50
(vii) Each additional inscription after	27.00	22.50
the first in respect of each person		
(viii) Fee for persons not resident in the parish		
within the last 10 years - Minute 7) Policy &	A a above v 2	
Resources Meeting 21st May 2007	As above x 2	
Memorial Tree Plaque	140.00	140.00
No additional fee to be applied for period 29th to 31st December		

4

No Charge

**Hire of Cemetery Chapel** 

During discussion of the above scale of charges attention was drawn to the possibility of significant increases in the rateable value of cemeteries. It was AGREED:

That the Town Clerk investigate the financial impact of the revaluation of the Council's cemeteries.

# c) Matters raised by James Smith Funeral Directors

Mr Fletcher of James Smith Funeral Directors highlighted the fact that other authorities have separate charges for scattering of ashes and this was becoming an increasingly popular practice. A specific request had been received from a client for ashes to be scattered underneath a cremation memorial and Mr Fletcher enquired as to the charge for this service. After a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Audley and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That three levels of charges be introduced for scattering of ashes, ashes under the turf and interment of ashes to be recommended to the Finance and Performance Committee Meeting due to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

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

That the specific request received for scattering of ashes under a cremation memorial have a discounted fee of £65 applied.

Mr Fletcher left the meeting at 11.25 a.m.

# 4. Fishermen's Huts and Jetty

# a) Scale of Charges 2011/12 – Fishermen's Huts

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Bright and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

#### TO RECOMMEND:

That the following scale of charges be considered further during the budget setting for the 2011/12 financial year.

# **Proposed Charges**

	(Incl. VAT@	
	20%)	(Excl. VAT)
	£	£
PEVERIL POINT		
Angling Club		
Angling Club Hut and Land	450.00	450.00
Foreshore - Dinghy Storage (Angling Club)	200.00	200.00
Dug-Out Storage Area, Rear of Waterside (per		
week)	7.80	7.80
Rent of Hut Site (East of Lifeboat House)	190.00	190.00
Fishermen's Huts	360.00	300.00
Boathouse Sites x 2 (West of Lifeboat House)	220.00	220.00

# b) Matters raised by Swanage Fishermen's Association.

No additional matters were raised by Mr Lander of Swanage Fishermen's Association.

# 5. Scale of Charges 2011/12

- a) Town Hall Lettings and charge for civil wedding ceremonies.
- b) King George V Playing Field.
- c) Other Playing Fields.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Poultney and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

#### TO RECOMMEND:

That the following scale of charges be considered further during the budget setting for the 2011/12 financial year.

# **Proposed Charges**

		(Incl. VAT @ 20%) £	(Excl. VAT)
i)	TOWN HALL LETTINGS		
	Council Chamber		
	Public Meetings and Lectures (per session)	37.00	37.00
	Property Auctions	127.00	127.00
	Annexe	22.00	22.00
	Civil Marriage/Partnership Ceremonies	100.00	100.00
	Committee Room	22.00	22.00
*	Regatta Committee, Swanage Museum,	Free of Charge	
	Town Band, Red Cross, Royal British Legion, Swanage I		
	Committee, Care Provision for Older People in Swanage		rtnership,
	Pier Trust, PACT, Pub Watch, Primary Care Trust and Ra	adio Link Shop Watch.	
ii)	KING GEORGE V FIELD		
	Caravan Club Rallies	18.00	18.00
	(Daily per Unit)		
	Football Pitch & Changing Facilities	25.00	20.83
		(Excl. Elec)	
	(Youth Teams)	12.00	10.00
		(Excl. Elec)	
iii)	FORRES SPORTS FIELD		
	Football Pitch & Changing Facilities	25.00	20.83
		(Excl. Elec)	
	(Youth Teams)	12.00	10.00
		(Excl. Elec)	
	DAY'S PARK		
	Football Club	5.00	5.00
	LOWER GRAMMAR SCHOOL SPORTS		
	FIELD	12.50	10.42
	Football Pitch (N.B. No Changing Facilities)	12.50	10.42
	JOURNEY'S END		
	Football Pitches	12.00	10.00
	Youth Teams	6.00	5.00

# 6. <u>Matters arising from the minutes of the Meeting of the General Operations</u> Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Further to item 13)e) it was noted that the Tennis Club, had yet to be approached regarding the payment of costs arising from the maintenance agreement in respect of the courts, but that this would be followed up at the earliest opportunity.

# 7. Proposal for wild flower planting on the Downs

Consideration was given to a letter outlining an idea for planting wild flower seeds with schoolchildren on the Downs during half term week at the end of May 2011. It was noted that there would be three designated areas which would need no maintenance other than cutting back in the Autumn. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Poultney and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That planting of wild flower seeds on the Downs be allowed but the Operations Manager must be kept informed of when planting is undertaken and the seeds used must be to Dorset.

# 8. Review of Capital Programme and Repairs and Maintenance Schedule

The Operations Manager reported on the Town Council's Capital Programme. During the discussion the following points were made:

- Seafront Stabilisation Waiting for reports to be undertaken.
- King George's Scheme A meeting with the Football Club and working party had taken place. It was agreed that interested councillors should visit the facilities at Corfe Castle which had been built on a modular basis following the receipt of grant funding. It was further proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Town Mayor and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

## TO RECOMMEND:

That an architect be appointed and plans be drawn up to provide accurate costings for the combined changing facilities and public conveniences at King George's Field.

• Car Parks – Lighting and Signage – Waiting for a quote from Southern Electricity for lighting in the car parks.

# 9. Major Projects - Progress report

# a) Railway Land/Buildings

The possible disposal to Swanage Railway Trust would be discussed at a meeting in December 2010 with the Town Council's Surveyor.

# b) Review of Future use of Public Buildings (Tourist Information Centre, Town Hall and Depot)

It was noted that the future use of the Depot had been discussed at a recent meeting with officers from Purbeck District Council. As yet an alternative site had not been identified.

#### e) Beach Gardens

It was noted that discussions to resolve future management arrangements were ongoing with the tennis club and no decision would be taken before December 2010.

### f) Land South of Holiday Park

It was reported that discussions with Dorset County Council with regard to the management of the former quarry site were ongoing.

# g) Godlingston Cemetery – Natural Burials

The position on this matter had been reported under minute 3)a) above.

# h) Northbrook Copse

It was reported that approaching Woodland/Wildlife Trust with regard to options for disposal of the Copse was still outstanding.

# 10. Operations Managers Report

The Operations Manager reported on the following issues:

# a) Days Park Play Area- Update

A number of items of play equipment had been highlighted in a RoSPA report as failing to meet safety standards. These items had been removed and quotations for replacements totalling £11,436 had been received. Concern had been expressed with regard to the location of the play area within Day's Park. It was noted that a site visit had been arranged for 23<sup>rd</sup> November to ascertain the best way forward as the play area was seen to be an important asset to the area

# b) Provision of Memorial Benches

Due to the demand, suitable sites had now become limited. It was noted that the current stock of seats had been depleted and until the Seafront Stabilisation Scheme is underway, finding new sites for benches would be difficult. Therefore it may be advisable to refrain from purchasing more benches at the present. It was noted that interested parties could be placed on a waiting to be contacted at a later date when the scheme could be progressed.

# c) Replacement of Equipment

The Operations Manager reported that having received approval from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor he had recently purchased a new spiking machine for the Bowling Green for £3,800.

It was further noted that the Council's ride on mower would be in need of replacement in the coming year. The maintenance costs for the machine were approximately £2,500 per annum. Quotes had been received and a part exchange had been offered. After a brief discussion it was proposed by Councillor Poultney, seconded by Councillor Audley and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

#### TO RECOMMEND:

That a part exchange figure of £5,500 be accepted and a balance of £21,215.00 be paid to procure a new ride on mower.

## 11. Public Conveniences Review - Update

It was noted that a review into the Council's provision of public conveniences was ongoing and that there was nothing further to report at the present time.

#### 12. Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

It was noted that the possibility of paying car parking charges by mobile phone would be discussed at the next meeting of the Transport Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

### 13. Exclusion of Press and Public

It was proposed by Councillor Trite, seconded by the Chairman, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That, under Standing Orders Nos. 67 and 68, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following matter.

## 14. Public Conveniences Cleaning Contract – Update

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Poultney declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct due to a business relationship with the current contractor, and as his interest was prejudicial, he left the Meeting during the debate.

Attention was drawn to the expiry of the Council's public convenience cleaning contract on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010. During discussion consideration was given to the considerable degree of uncertainty that currently existed over the number of public conveniences to be provided and the scheduling of the Council's maintenance and refurbishment programme. It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Audley and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

#### TO RECOMMEND:

That in light of the ongoing review of public convenience provision, the existing cleaning contract be extended by one year until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

# 15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

The Meeting closed at 12.50 p.m.