

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 21st APRIL 2008 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor M.W. Pratt (Deputy Town Mayor) – Chairman

Councillor C.R. Bright

Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough JP

Councillor L. Gloyn-Cox

Councillor M. Hadley

Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh

Councillor Mrs. A. Patrick

Councillor S. Poultney

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 11 members of the public attended the Meeting.

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

Public Participation Time

MR. M. TYRER referred to the forthcoming District Council elections on 1st May 2008, and commented that one councillor was standing for re-election as a member of a different political party to that which he originally represented. The councillor concerned did not wish to comment.

MRS. S. BRIGHT wished it to be recorded that at the Council meeting held on 31st March 2008 she had made reference to sand excavations around the beach hut staging.

MR. P. CLARK referred to Dorset County Council's proposals to consider the closure of the Bulky Household Waste Disposal Site in Swanage, and expressed grave concern at the possible withdrawal of this well-used facility. He enquired whether the Town Council had formally registered their objections to any planned closure and whether, as Landlord, they would be prepared to extend the lease on the site. He was informed by the **TOWN CLERK** that a letter had been sent to Dorset County Council expressing the Town Council's grave concern at the proposed withdrawal of this important facility and the lack of consultation with the Town Council and local residents in this matter. The Town Council had given Dorset County Council free access to the site for many years and had no desire to terminate the lease at the present time.

MR. I. SAUNDERS enquired why it had been necessary to increase the Town Council's precept for 2008/09. The **TOWN CLERK** explained that a prudent approach was necessary in order to maintain the Council's balances and to allow for income fluctuations. Detailed consideration had been given to the matter at the Estimates Meeting held on 1st February 2008.

The Council Meeting commenced at 7.10 p.m.

172. **APOLOGIES**

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

173. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 31st March 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 4th April 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Whitwam, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 14th April 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

174. **TOURISM COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 31st March 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

175. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 9th April 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

176. **GENERAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Poultney, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the General Operations Committee held on 16th April 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

177. **CARAVAN PARK COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Patrick, seconded by Councillor Whitwam, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Caravan Park Committee held on 16th April 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed.

178. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In the absence of the Town Mayor, there were no specific announcements to make at the present time.

179. **TOURISM REPORT**

In the absence of the Tourist Information Centre Manager, there were no matters to report on tourism at the present time.

180. **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

(a) **Dorset Age Partnership**

Councillor Gloyn-Cox reported that the Swanage Area Senior Forum had been launched on 5th April 2008, and that the Deputy Mayor had been present at the meeting.

At a previous meeting of the Locality Group of the Dorset Age Partnership it had been reported that the Swanage Transport Action Group had ceased to meet. Poor communication between the various groups and bodies working in transport was noted.

- (b) The Town Clerk reported that he had attended the Annual General Meeting of the Swanage & Purbeck Holiday Accommodation Association. At the meeting, reference had been made to the “Jurassic Coast Bus” and negotiations were continuing with the operators for Swanage (being the eastern Gateway to the Jurassic Coast) to be included on the bus route.

181. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

There were no delegated matters in need of urgent attention at the present time.

182. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of March 2008 were submitted for information.

183. **ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND MATTERS FOR FORTHCOMING AGENDAS**

- (a) Notice was given of an impending “Olympic Legacy” meeting.
(b) Swanage Future 2008 Conference was scheduled to be held at the Swanage Bay View Holiday Park on Thursday, 15th May 2008 from 9.00 a.m to 1.00 p.m.
(c) It was reported that, due to strong easterly winds and a subsequent build up of sand on the highway, it had been necessary to close Shore Road to traffic until the matter had been addressed by the highway authority.

184. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

That, under Standing Order No. 67, it is envisaged that in view 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 matters.

185. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Audit Commission – Legal Challenge**

The Clerk updated Members on matters relating to the legal challenge by the Audit Commission.

A meeting had now been arranged for the respective legal advisers to meet to clarify matters relating to the Caravan Park on Friday, 9th May 2008.

(b) **Cow Lane**

The Clerk updated Members on matters relating to Cow Lane, and, following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED:-

That the Working Group (comprising of the Town Mayor and Councillors Mrs. Patrick, Poultney and Trite) be reconvened in order to progress the matter.

(c) **Rent Review – Wilts and Dorset Bus Company**

The Clerk reported on matters relating to the rent review and an offer received from the Wilts and Dorset Bus Company (see letter dated 10th April 2008 from Cowling & West).

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Pratt and seconded by Councillor Trite:-

That the Council's surveyor be instructed to negotiate the best figure that can be achieved.

An AMENDMENT was moved by Councillor Bright and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough:-

That the Council's surveyor be instructed to negotiate a figure in the region of £2,500 in excess of the sum cited in the letter from Cowling & West dated 10th April 2008.

Upon being put to the Meeting, EIGHT Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Amendment and NONE AGAINST, whereupon the Amendment was declared CARRIED.

The AMENDMENT was then put as a SUBSTANTIVE MOTION and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

(d) **Beach Chair Concession**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Poultney declared his personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct and left the Meeting during the debate.

The Clerk reported on a request received from the beach chair concessionaire seeking a variation to the conditions of his lease to permit the sale of T-shirts from his beach kiosk.

During the ensuing discussion, concern was expressed that the sale of such goods from a beach kiosk may set a precedent for other traders and may impinge on the business of other leaseholders in the vicinity.

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

That the request be not granted.

The meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.
