

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 3rd AUGUST 2009 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

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

Councillor B. Audley

Councillor C. Bright

Councillor Mrs. C. Gainsborough JP

Councillor L. Gloyn-Cox

Councillor M. Hadley

(until 9.24 p.m.)

Councillor Mrs. G.A. Marsh

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 14 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Public Participation Time

MR. C. BURKE provided information relating to the STRATA Swanage Seen Arts Project, to be discussed under Agenda Item 8). Attention was drawn to consultation which had been undertaken with Purbeck District Council's Planning Department, and to the fact that the Tourism Officer had expressed support for a trail leaflet. It was acknowledged that the cost of replacement panels would be borne by STRATA.

MR. D. HOLLISTER suggested that the Town Council considers taking regular space in the Purbeck Gazette to keep the electorate informed of current issues, projects and general matters affecting the Council. This space could be made available at a concessionary rate of 50% of the normal advertising cost. A similar offer had been taken up by Purbeck District Council.

He then referred to the Swanage Regatta and Carnival, held the previous week, and complimented the Council on the high standard of cleanliness throughout the town during this extremely busy period. He also enquired whether the Council's operational procedures and other matters were reviewed after popular seasonal events had been held.

MR. J. JAMES was pleased to see that approximately 200 cars had used the overspill facility at North Beach car park on Saturday, 1st August 2009. This facility had not been available on Sunday, 2nd August – the day of the Swanage carnival procession. He was informed that overflow facilities had been available at Main Beach Car Park.

MR. P. CLARK expressed his concerns regarding the Purbeck Schools Review and how the school buildings may be affected by any changes in the primary schools funding guarantee. It was noted that a further period of consultation was being undertaken by Dorset County Council during September/October 2009.

MR. FOOKS endorsed the comments made by Mr. Hollister regarding the general cleanliness of the town, but drew attention to an area in Mermond Place that appeared to be overlooked by those responsible for litter collection.

MR. THOMPSON enquired why the Council was disposing of the Caravan Park. He was informed that this action had been principally driven by the challenge raised by

the District Auditor, and that detailed comment could be not be made on the subject as the Council was currently in a period of exclusivity.

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

The Council Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

45. **APOLOGIES**

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

46. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 6th July 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Arising from Minute No. 35, a question was raised as to how the car parking charges agreed for special events would impact on the Council's income and whether arrangements were in place to monitor this effect.

Arising from Minute No. 36, Members were informed that the provision of refreshment facilities was considered during the Best Value Review of Car Parks undertaken in 2003.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and planning matters on 20th July 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to the declaration by Councillor Mrs. Marsh in Minute No. 2 being deleted, and the word "requested" in Minute No. 3 (a) being replaced with the word "agreed".

47. **TOURISM COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 6th July 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Consideration was given to the recommendations contained in the Minutes, as follows:-

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

That the locations of the 5-knot buoys opposite the Victoria Avenue jetty and at the north-eastern edge of the small craft moorings be agreed.

48. **GENERAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Audley, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the General Operations Committee held on 15th July 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed, subject to the words “or removal” being deleted from line one in Minute No. 6 (c) – Sydenham Road Play Area.

Consideration was given to the recommendations contained in the Minutes, as follows:-

Minute No. 4 a) Fishermen’s Huts and Jetty

In light of receipt of additional information since the Meeting, the following revised recommendation was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Marsh, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

To consult with all fishermen directly and other users of the eastern jetty to determine which option for its future would be agreeable.

Minute No. 6 j) – Sandpit Field

Proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED:-

That representatives of Swanage Town Council and other interested parties meet with the Chamber of Trade, Licensed Victuallers Association and all event organisers to discuss a policy for the use of Council facilities for organised events.

In agreeing the above resolution, it was suggested that Members and officers meet prior to the above meeting so they are fully informed of the Council’s existing “user agreements” and any issues that may have arisen during the summer season.

Minute No. 6 m) – Seating

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

That a budget of £10,000 be made available for the provision of additional seating, subject to the Downs being offered to the public as a location for memorial seating and the identification of available funding.

49. **PLANS**

Under the Model Code of Conduct, Members declared a formal interest in the capacity of Corporate Trustee of the De Moulham Estate Trust in applications relating to the Trust.

Councillor Mrs. Marsh did not vote on, or propose, or second any of the motions on the following planning applications, by reason of being a Member of the Purbeck District Council’s Planning Board.

Plan No

Delegated Applications

6/2009/0392 **Mr J Lally**

Erect single storey side extension, alter existing roof, insert two dormer windows to facilitate loft conversion.
103 Bay Crescent, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: No objection.

6/2009/0398 **Mr S Anderson**

Erect balustrade to existing balcony.
Flat 4, 6 Park Road, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: No objection.

6/2009/0399 **Mr G Jensen**

Insert dormer window extension to roof of garage and convert roof space to office.

60 Bell Street, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: No objection, subject to a condition stipulating that the converted roofspace cannot be used as living accommodation.

6/2009/0400 **Mr A Ellison**

Alterations and additions to dwelling comprising demolition of existing sun lounge, erection of two storey front extension and construction of pitched roof over existing flat roof at the rear.

11 Priests Road, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: No objection.

6/2009/0401 **Ms S Clark**

Erect replacement garage.

1 Bonfields Avenue, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: No objection.

6/2009/0404 **Miss S Beckley**

Change of use from hairdressing salon to office/canine behaviour consultation room and dog grooming area.

12A Station Road, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: No objection.

6/2008/0688 **Mr Harrison**

Removal of occupancy age requirement of 55 years and over.

6a Burlington Road, Swanage.

OBSERVATION: No comment.

50. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had no specific announcements to make at the present time.

51. **BEACH GARDENS – REQUEST FROM SWANAGE TENNIS CLUB FOR USE OF COURTS FOR SUMMER CAMP**

Consideration was given to a request received from the Chairman of the Swanage Tennis Club for all courts to be made available from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. daily for one week during August to run a “Summer Camp”.

Following discussion, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Hadley, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That up to five tennis courts be made available from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. daily for one week during August to run a “Summer Camp”, and that a fee of £2.65 per participating child be levied.

52. **WAR MEMORIAL – REQUEST FOR COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE FOR U.S. 26th INFANTRY REGIMENT**

Consideration was given to a request received from Mr. Mike Ford seeking permission to erect a commemorative plaque for the U.S. 26th Infantry Regiment in the vicinity of the War Memorial on the Recreation Ground.

Following discussion, during which it was acknowledged that some other regiments may also wish to erect commemorative plaques, it was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the request be agreed in principle, subject to further discussion with officers of the Royal British Legion.

53. **STRATA ARTS PROJECT – APPROVAL OF PLINTHS**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Hadley declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct, and as his interest was non-prejudicial remained in the Meeting during the debate.

Further to Minute No. 7 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 20th July 2009, it was reported that the following Statement had been received from STRATA Swanage Seen Art Trail:-

“Strata acknowledge the right of the Swanage Town Council to remove the plinths at a future date bearing in mind the Art Boards are the property of Strata”.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by Councillor Whitwam:-

That permission be granted to erect stone plinths on Broad Road and Shore Road for the Strata Arts Project.

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

54. **REVISED ARRANGEMENTS FOR DELEGATED PLANNING DECISIONS**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Mrs. Marsh declared her interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a Member of the Purbeck District Council’s Planning Board. She remained in the Meeting during the debate, but did not vote on the proposition.

A letter dated 1st July 2009 was submitted from the Head of Planning Services outlining revised arrangements for delegating planning decisions to officers at Purbeck District Council.

Following discussion, during which Members expressed grave concern at the proposals and the possible exposure of officers to allegations of corruption, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by the Town Mayor, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the Town Council objects to the proposals as they consider that such proposals may restrict the opportunity of individual Councillors to raise issues on behalf of local residents.

It was further AGREED:-

That the Deputy Town Clerk formulate a response in accordance with the above recommendation for approval by the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor Bright.

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

There were no matters to report from Council representatives on outside organisations at the present time.

56. **REPORTING OF DELEGATED MATTERS**

In the absence of the Town Clerk there were no matters to report.

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

(a) **Shoreline Management Plan**

It was reported that the Council's representative in respect of the Shoreline Management Plan had prepared a response to the "Policy Units, Features, Issues and Objectives" consultation document.

(b) **Purbeck Schools Review**

It was reported that further consultation would be undertaken by Dorset County Council in respect of the Purbeck Schools Review during the autumn. This would take the format of "drop-in sessions" at the schools and an "Options Forum" drawn from various interested groups.

(c) **Public Right of Way**

It was reported that a letter had been received from Dorset County Council requesting information in respect of an application for the registration of a public right of way in the vicinity of the Pines Hotel, Swanage.

58. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bright 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 matters.

Councillor Hadley left the Meeting at 9.24 p.m.

59. **LEGAL ISSUES**

(a) **Holiday Park Disposal**

The Deputy Town Clerk updated those present on matters relating to the disposal of the Holiday Park.

(b) **Cow Lane – Settlement Proposals**

Before consideration of this item, Councillor Mrs. Marsh declared her interest under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of being a member of the Purbeck Housing Trust Board.

Further to Minute No. 10 (c) of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 20th July 2009, consideration was given to a settlement proposal received from the developer of the Newton Grange site, contained in a letter submitted from the Council's surveyor.

Following a detailed and lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Audley, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the proposed settlement figure be agreed in respect of Cow Lane (the Council's surveyor to advise further regarding the timing of the payment), and that the road be made up to an acceptable standard before occupation of any of the properties.

It was further AGREED:-

That the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor Poultney meet with the Council's surveyor in order to progress the matter, if necessary.

(c) **Burlington Chine – Proposals for Open Fronted Area adjoining Public Conveniences**

Consideration was given to a request received regarding the possible sale of the open fronted area adjoining public conveniences at Burlington Chine.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Whitwam, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That the matter be referred to the Council's surveyor to assess future options for the area and appropriate valuations.

(d) **Peveril Point – Land North of Old Coastguard Cottages**

There were no matters to report regarding the land north of Old Coastguard Cottages at the present time.

(e) **Fisherman's Catch – Assignment of Lease**

Further to Minute No. 76 (c) of the Council meeting held on 27th October 2008 and Minute No. 62 (c) of the Council meeting held on 29th September 2008, a letter dated 25th July 2009 was submitted from Corben & Son requesting that consideration be given to the assignment of the lease of the Fisherman's Catch. It was proposed by the Town Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bright, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That assignment of the lease of the Fisherman's Catch be agreed in principle, subject to suitable references being obtained.

The meeting concluded at 10.05 p.m.
