

Minutes of the **MONTHLY MEETING** of the Swanage
Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 23rd AUGUST 2004 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 Mrs. H.O'Donovan
Councillor M.W. Pratt
Councillor W.S. Trite
Councillor M.A. Tyrer
Councillor Mrs. J.D. Wheeldon

The Mayor welcomed Revd. John Woods, who offered a short prayer before the commencement of the Meeting.

Before embarking on the business of the Agenda, the Mayor reported on the retirement of Mr. Brian Vallis, who had been employed by the Town Council for approximately 17 years. He thanked Mr. Vallis for his loyal and dedicated service during that time, and made a small presentation to him on behalf of the Council.

48. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Suttle.

49. **MINUTES**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26th July 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(b) Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Pratt, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss planning and other matters on 6th August 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

(c) Proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held to discuss policy and resources matters on 16th August 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

50. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

That the notes on the Public Participation Time held on 26th July 2004 be accepted.

51. **SWANAGETOWN MARKET COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Tyrer, and RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Swanage Town Market Committee held on 26th July 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

52. **CAR PARKS BEST VALUE WORKING GROUP**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Car Parks Best Value Working Group held on 16th August 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

53. **CARAVAN PARK COMMITTEE**

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Caravan Park Committee held on 20th August 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed.

54. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor was delighted to report that the Town Council had finally acquired the use of the playing fields on the former grammar school site in Northbrook Road. He expressed his appreciation of the sterling work undertaken by County Councillor, Mr. Donald Hiatt, in securing this valuable asset for the town.

55. **TOURISM REPORT**

The Tourist Information Centre Manager reported on the following matters:-
Unfortunately, due to the inclement weather, footfall figures at the Tourist Information Centre in August were expected to be down on the corresponding period in 2003.

- (b) One of the most successful promotions during the summer had been the involvement with the Coastguard's "Keep Tabs On Your Children" campaign. The idea is for the parents to write their mobile telephone number on a wristband and attach it to their children in case they get lost. The campaign had been widely advertised throughout the town, and promoted through the Tourist Information Centre and participating shops in the town, together with the beach wardens and coastguard personnel.
- (c) The paddle steamer "Waverley" would be visiting Swanage during the period 3rd to 23rd September 2004, and as usual, tickets for the various cruises would be available from the Information Centre.
- (d) The ever popular Dorset County Show was being held at Dorchester during the weekend 4th/5th September 2004, and once again the TIC would be acting as agents for this event.

On the conclusion of the Tourism Report, Councillor Pratt referred to his personal experience of the "Keep Tabs On Your Children" campaign, and expressed his appreciation of the Information Centre staff in this regard.

56. **HOLIDAY PARK REPORT**

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

- (a) A satisfactory season was being had at the Holiday Park, with confirmed holiday bookings well received for August. Bar takings and site fees were up on the corresponding period in 2003, but regrettably, the catering facility was not being well used.
- (b) A customer satisfaction survey had been initiated at the Holiday Park during the past three months, and the General Manager was pleased to report that this had shown a customer satisfaction level of 87%.
- (c) Problems with water leaks had been experienced at the Holiday Park during the past six months, but these had now been identified and a full survey of the water system had been authorised to take place during the autumn.
- (d) A new stock range of 2005 model holiday homes were on display at the Holiday Park. To date, 44 units had been ordered, compared with 42 units during the corresponding period in 2003.
- (e) Finally, supervisory staff at the Holiday Park would shortly be carrying out appraisals to ascertain the training requirements of all staff at the Park, so that appropriate action could be taken before the commencement of the 2005 holiday season.

57. **JUSTICES' LICENCE**

A Notice of Application for the transfer of the Justices' Licence in respect of Alfie's, Institute Road was submitted for consideration.

Councillor Mrs. Gainsborough supported the transfer of a restaurant licence only, but expressed her concern at the transfer of a licence permitting "the sale of certain intoxicating liquor by retail on or off the licensed premises".

Having regard to the above, it was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Trite, and RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Council to be held on 10th September 2004, to enable further information to be obtained.

58. **MOBILE LIBRARY**

The Clerk reported on a request received from the Cultural Services section of Dorset County Council seeking a temporary site for their mobile library during the period 25th October to 19th November 2004, when the Swanage Library is closed.

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. Wheeldon, seconded by Councillor Mrs. O'Donovan, and RESOLVED:-

That the matter be deferred, pending further information regarding the size of the vehicle etc.

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

There were no additional matters in need of urgent attention.

60. **METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS**

The meteorological records for the month of July 2004 were submitted for information.

61. **PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

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

That the accounts specified in the Order on Treasurer Nos. 5, 5a and 5b, amounting to £208,737.39, £45,974.74 and £47,202.13 respectively be paid, and that cheques be drawn therefor.

62. **STATEMENT OF CASH BALANCE**

The Clerk submitted a statement of cash balance as at 31st July 2004 (copies having been circulated to all Councillors), a copy attached at end of these Minutes.

63. **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 matters.

64. **PLAYING FIELDS, FORMER GRAMMAR SCHOOL SITE**

Further to Minute No. 54, and the proposed transfer of the playing fields to the Town Council from Dorset County Council, consideration was given to the main terms and conditions in which the land was being offered on a 150 year lease, Subject to Contract.

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

That the land be accepted, on the terms and conditions offered by the County Council.

65. **LITTER**

Before the conclusion of the Meeting, Councillor Pratt wished to record his appreciation of the hard work undertaken by SITA and the Town Council's own workforce, in cleaning up the town during the very busy Carnival Week.
