

Minutes of the **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** of the
Swanage Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on
MONDAY, 14th JANUARY 2008 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor G.M. Suttle (Town Mayor) - Chairman
(until 11.00 a.m.)

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 M.W. Pratt
Councillor W.S. Trite (from 10.10 a.m.)
Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 9 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Public Participation Time

MR. A. SCUDAMORE requested that the Town Council reconsider its recent decision not to introduce a system of payment by instalments for site rents at the Holiday Park. He stated that the Owners' Association had written to request a system of payment by quarterly instalments in advance, which he saw as a reasonable step. A table listing the payment schemes provided by a number of other park operators was provided and circulated.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillors Audley and Bright.

2. **PAYMENT OF SITE FEES IN INSTALMENTS**

Prior to discussion of this item, advice from the solicitors to the British Holiday and Home Parks Association was circulated to members. The payment schemes provided by other park operators were examined and it was noted that where instalment schemes were permitted these often attracted additional fees. After some consideration it was proposed by Councillor Gloyn-Cox, seconded by Councillor Mrs Marsh and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

That further consideration of this item be deferred to follow the determination of item 3) on the agenda.

3. **SWANAGE BAY VIEW HOLIDAY PARK – OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

Consideration was given to the Options Appraisal Report dated 17th December 2007, together with a brief addendum dated 8th January 2008. Attention was drawn to a number of internal and external factors that were required to be taken into account. Members each expressed their preferred option before the meeting was briefly suspended under Standing Order 69 to permit the representative of the Owners' Association to express his view.

It was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs Patrick and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

That the Town Council formally adopts the Options Appraisal Report and thanks the Town Mayor and Town Clerk for their efforts.

It was then proposed by Councillor Mrs Patrick and seconded by Councillor Pratt:

That the Town Council adopts Option 1 (To retain the site as is) and advertise for the appointment of a General Manager.

An AMENDMENT was moved by Councillor Gloyn-Cox:

That the Town Council adopts Option 1 as its preferred option, but also explores Option 5 (To let the site under a management agreement).

The amendment failed to obtain a seconder, although it was noted that the Caravan Park Committee could explore this option further.

The original Proposition was then put to the Meeting. EIGHT Members voted IN FAVOUR and TWO AGAINST, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

2. **PAYMENT OF SITE FEES IN INSTALMENTS**

The meeting was again suspended under Standing Order 69 to permit the representative of the Owners' Association to express his views. The likely impact of the introduction of the payment of site fees by instalments on the Town Council's cashflow was discussed at some length, the Town Clerk highlighting the legal and financial implications.

On the basis that the direct financial impact was not considered to be significant and on the grounds of reasonableness it was proposed by Councillor Pratt and seconded by the Town Mayor:

That the Town Council should provide the facility for the payment of site fees in two instalments due on 1st March and 1st September each year.

An AMENDMENT was moved by Councillor Gloyn-Cox and seconded by Councillor Poultney:

That the Town Council should provide the facility for the payment of site fees in two instalments due on 1st January and 1st June each year.

Upon being put to the Meeting THREE Members voted IN FAVOUR of the Amendment, SIX AGAINST and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the Amendment was declared NOT CARRIED.

The original Proposition was then put to the Meeting. EIGHT Members voted IN FAVOUR and TWO AGAINST, whereupon the Proposition was declared CARRIED.

4. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

5. **AUDIT COMMISSION – LEGAL CHALLENGE - UPDATE**

The Town Mayor left the Meeting at 11.00 a.m. and Councillor Pratt assumed the Chair.

Further to Minute 7)a) of the Policy and Planning Meeting held on 4th January 2008 it was noted that a letter had been sent to Mr Jim Knight M.P. and Members expressed their appreciation of the Town Clerk's work in this respect. Members also considered a draft letter to the District Auditor and it was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Trite and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the Town Clerk be instructed to finalise the draft letter and send it to the District Auditor.

Further to item 3) above, and it was proposed by Councillor Pratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs Patrick and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the appointment of a new Holiday Park General Manager be considered at a Caravan Park Committee Meeting to be held on Friday 18th January at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting concluded at 11.25 a.m.
